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NO. 4.

THE

MARYLAND FARMER:

A

MONTHLY MAGAZINE:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Economy.

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JAMES D. MASON & CO.

BALTIMORE.

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JAS. D. MASON & CO.

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THE
MARYLAND FARMER:
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Vol. XIV.

BALTIMORE, APRIL, 1877.

No. 4

AN AGRICULTURAL RHYME.

Plow deep—two feet, at least—for corn or rye.
You can't in stony land? Sir, that's a lie;
A sub-soil plow will do it; then manure,
And put on plenty; if the land is poor
Get muck and plaster; buy them by the heap,
No matter what they cost, you'll find them cheap.
I've tried them often, and I think I know;
Then plow again two feet before you sow.

Potatoes get on best in sandy soil,
I'm sure of *that*—but plant before you boil;
Then put in strawberries; that's what I do—
Confound you for a blockhead! Why don't you.
Get modern works and read them! No, you'd rather
Go creeping on just like your stupid father,
That patch is good for melons. Why the deuce
Don't you convert those *swamps* to better use?

Beets are a paying crop, and don't cost much
To raise, so's cabbage, pumpkins, squash, and such;
They'll always sell and bring you back your money.
No bees? The mischief! What d'ye do for honey?
Sir, let me tell you plainly, you're an ass—
Just look at those ten acres gone to grass!
Put turnips in 'em. Timothy don't pay—
Can't cattle feed on anything but hay?

I don't consider hogs a first-class crop;
Give me my own free choice, sir, and I'd swap
The best of 'em for strawberries or *sheep*—
But let me say again, you must plow deep:
The trouble with our farmers is, that they
Can't be induced to look beyond to-day;
Let them get sub-soil plow and turn up sand,
And hang it, sir let them manure their land.

Punchinello.

LUMBERMAN'S GAZETTE.—This a large, handsome Magazine, containing vast amount of information about lumber and lumber-making: published at Bay City, Mich.

TOBACCO WIT.—A tobacconist friend of ours, commenting on the electoral hitch in Vermont, suggests that the House can throw out Sollace if they chews, but they'll have to give a *quid pro quo*. —*Commercial Adv.*

Salt, in Farming.

In the MARYLAND FARMER, of last month, we gave important and extended facts in evidence of the value of *Salt* as a fertilizer. We here add still further testimony, and of more recent date and nearer home.

Among several farmers of whom we have heard as using salt to advantage,

Major Peter Jones, of N. H., the past year, 1871, used about 1,000 bushels of *salt*, broad-cast, on his wheat in the fall, and found that it increased the yield fully one-third. He proposes to apply several thousand bushels the coming season on wheat fields and meadows, putting it on late in fall.

These are rational arguments why the duty-tax should be taken off an article used on the fields, in the dairies, in curing meats, and in everything we eat.

DURABLE EFFECTS.—The beneficial effects of *salt* on the land are seen for several years after its application, on all fields, as well as around trees.

Salt for Grain.

A correspondent in one of our Exchanges, gives the following results from the use of *salt*, on land, in Canada:

"In Brant county, where I reside, its non-application will soon be the exception and not the rule, as the material benefit accruing to those who have used it, is such as to make us feel that our success in growing good crops, particularly barley, depends to a considerable extent upon its application. Experiments have been tried, such as leaving strips in a field without any salt, resulting in such a contrast as to cause any one not knowing the facts to wonder at it. But the most noticeable difference within my knowledge is where a farmer sowed the salt with an attachment on a grain drill for that purpose, by which, not working properly, som

drills were salted and others not, making the barley field at harvest time present a rather ludicrous appearance, as the salted drills were of a brighter color, taller, and ripened fully a week earlier than the others.

We find we receive the most benefit from an application of about 240 pounds per acre. We sow broadcast upon the ground after plowing or before cultivating, as the case may be, working it in with the grain. There is no question with us whether we shall apply it or not."

Salt is beneficial when applied as a topdressing, but not so much so as when it is incorporated with the seed-bed. The effect of salt, applied in any manner, is to stiffen the straw and brighten the grain.—*Canada paper.*

Effect of Salt on Wheat.

In an interesting series of experiments recently made on the farm of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the manurial value of *salt* was unmistakably indicated. An acre of wheat dressed with 300 pounds of common salt yielded 39 bushels of grain, with a proportionate amount of straw, while an adjoining acre, left unmanured, produced only 29 bushels per acre, with the straw imperfectly developed, showing an increase of ten bushels per acre. The entire cost of the crop is not stated, but their experiment shows that the additional ten bushels resulting from the salt were produced at a cost of 30 cent each.

In another case a piece of ground intended for wheat was plowed the preceding fall, and again in May, when it was sowed with salt, and afterward plowed twice before seeding. On the 1st and 2d of September wheat was sowed at the rate of two bushels to the acre. The crop when harvested yielded according to the estimate of the owner, John Parke, 40 bushels of grain per acre, with a luxuriant growth of straw. From these and many similar cases the inference seems to be that salt is a specific for the wheat crop, imparting solidity to the grain and firmness to the straw.

Salt as a Fertilizer on Land.

The application of salt on land for crops of grass and grain is a growing practice, in this country.—A very considerable demand for *salt* for this purpose has been established in our southern towns. Dirty salt, or that of an inferior quality, is as efficient as any, and comes cheaper. It is applied at the rate of from one to three bushels per acre upon barley, wheat and oats. One bushel of salt is

good for three or four bushels of grain. The best results were formerly realized when salt was sown on barley, the production being increased several bushels. If sown pretty freely, say three or four bushels per acre, the benefits are visible for several seasons.

The experiments of S. M. Brown, several years ago, showed that the application of salt on winter wheat was obviously advantageous. The effect seemed to be seen in the stiffening of the straw, by which its falling down and rusting, thus shrinking the berry, was prevented. If the effect upon spring wheat is what Mr. Fish represents it to be, all Central and Western New York can go into the production of that variety and make it profitable.

For a long period salt has been used to a large extent on the growing crops in Great Britain. It has been there ascertained that sixteen bushels per acre will kill all kinds of vegetation. Eight bushels per acre may be safely applied. From two to four bushels per acre would probably insure sufficiently favorable results in this country. There can be no doubt that the farmers would obtain valuable returns from the use of salt upon their grain crops. The price of the article is very low at present, and likely to remain so permanently, so that no objection to its employment in the way suggested can be urged.

—S. in the *Country Gentleman.*

Sowing Salt on Wheat.

An experienced New York farmer writes to the *Country Gentleman* on this subject as follows: In experiments for the past four years, I find many advantages in sowing salt on spring wheat. For over twenty-five years farming on soil too hot and dry for spring wheat to fill well (in the usual manner of cultivation), it proved a very uncertain crop. Becoming nearly discouraged in trying to raise it, I began four years ago sowing salt. The first year three bushels were scattered on the ground, just as the wheat was fairly up and the ground was dry. Twenty-five bushels per acre was the first year's yield. The second year four bushels of salt was sown, and twenty-nine bushels of plump wheat was raised to the acre. The third experiment was four bushels, and thirty of wheat to the acre.

Mr. W. D. Smith, a Clarke county Va., farmer, recently shipped to New York twenty-two head of cattle, which averaged 1,540 pounds per head.

A Nepauli (India) pony, alive and perfect in every feature, is only eight inches high. So says a Lahore paper.

For the Maryland Farmer.

DETERIORATION OF SEEDS AND SOILS.

In the March number of the MARYLAND FARMER, I see you invite your readers to discuss the above subject. I take the liberty of complying with your request, so far as I am able.

I find in all the papers I read but little written, and among all the farmers with whom I converse but little said, on this subject; whether from neglect or inexperience I cannot say. It appears from authenticated reports that wheat, corn, potatoes as well as soils have degenerated from 10 to 50 per cent. within the past 20 years.

The large yields of wheat, with little or no fertilizers, that were grown in various locations are now cut down to one-half—and that too after the soils had been fertilized with double and treble the amount of labor and expense. The soil is not at fault when kept up, nor can this falling off be attributable to want of proper cultivation. It must be in the seed and climatic changes.

Farmers talk about seed "running out." If any seed runs out it is the fault of the one who sows and reaps it; not enough attention is bestowed upon its selection.

True, seed, whether it be wheat, oats or corn, is not generally saved properly by one farmer in a thousand. Taking wheat from the bin at sowing time will "run out" any variety, and selecting corn and potatoes from the crib and heap will reduce his crop year after year, until his flour will be poor, his corn small, full of "nubbins," and his potatoes full of more eyes than meat.

In selecting choice seeds, in order to improve their flowers, florists always take from the main stalk and not from the branches. Gardeners, who understand their business, do the same with cabbage, tomatoes and all vegetables that bear seeds on stalks. The first fruits of the many vegetables contain the true seed.

To pursue this matter, in all the departments of agriculture, to develop the natural principles that govern this kingdom, and by that means to keep up the standard of all seeds, is a work too laborious for one man to attempt.

A. E. BLUNT,

Cleveland, Tennessee.

The British dairymen's organ, the London Milk, is not milk-and-water sheet. A good serial for this paper would be the "Cow with the iron tail."

Alfred P. White, of Accomac county, Virginia, slaughtered three hogs recently weighing respectively 650, 616 and 482 pounds.

For the Maryland Farmer.

AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOLS.

The article with the above caption, in the February number of the MARYLAND FARMER, is one worthy the consideration of all intelligent persons, especially farmers. The day in which the idea that the farmer's occupation required no knowledge, that there was no necessity for his being educated, has long since been numbered in the past, and is now being forgotten; and to-day, the farmer has not to deal with the past, but the present and the future.

Each State has its system of education for the young, whence are to come all the mechanics, merchants, professional men and farmers of the future? Is it not a fact that with the old ideas regarding farming and farmers, the American people have been educated to lose sight of the great importance of Agriculture and the prominence it holds in the prosperity and welfare of the nation?

Agriculture holds no second position; it is in fact the very foundation of national and state prosperity; and yet, it would almost be held as desecration to even mention agriculture in common schools.

Children should be educated in those particular branches of information which will be of most benefit to them, in after life; and yet, how often is the lad pushed through algebra, geometry, or some other branch, of whose principles he will never make an application during his whole life, while there are wide fields that are open before him, which he is not permitted to enter.

Every person knows with what interest and earnestness the young child pours forth his thousand and one questions regarding the objects of nature which come under his daily observation, until that spirit of enquiry is quenched by continued rebuffs. He must—the rather—be sent to school, where he is to deal with that which is almost wholly abstract, rather than be permitted to contemplate objects and things that he can bring directly to his observation.

The child must acquire an interest in the subject brought under study, in order to make any reasonable progress, and this is difficult to accomplish, when it requires a vigorous effort of mind to grasp and comprehend all the ideas necessary to this end. But anything that the child can bring under his observation, having, as it were, a double entry to the citadel of thought, will be investigated with interest and success.

Ask the young child, that has but just learned to count, how many two and two make; to answer this requires an effort of mind, which, in nine

cases out of ten, would be beyond his power; but take two apples in each hand and ask him how many apples you have in both hands, and being aided by vision he will answer at once

This proves the great advantage of *object lessons* in teaching; for less time is required to impress the same idea upon the mind of the child.

Now, it is not expected that *scientific agriculture* is to be introduced into our common schools in all its different department, as a branch of study, for that too would be unreasonable, but it is desirable, and perfectly legitimate too, that pupils have a reasonable amount of instruction in the rudimentary principles of all of those sciences that are the hand-maids of agriculture. And this may be accomplished, too, partially by *object lessons*, in which the objects are real, not merely illustrated or illustrative; botany, entomology, geology, mineralogy, &c., could be illustrated by means of real specimens, and a fund of information obtained that would be both pleasing and valuable.

'Tis true this course requires a *competent teacher* possessing the requisite qualifications, but they are no more than should be required of an instructor of youth; a teacher should be proficient in more branches of knowledge than reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, &c., to be a good instructor.

A vast amount could be accomplished if a series of reading books could be introduced into schools, made up of interesting presentments of the different departments of agriculture which, as they were being read, could be discussed and explained by the teacher.

One obstacle in the way of progress in this line is the want of *proper books*. These should be of most elementary kind, and yet contain the leading principles in the particular line of information therein contained.

The main point is to *arouse an interest*; such, that when recess is granted the youthful minds will, of themselves, search for specimens, and discuss the merits of the subject that has been brought to their notice.

There is no possible danger of the future, when a love of study in this line is once assured; it will cling to the boy after he has left the school and is aiding upon the farm; and then, too, the parent must bear in mind, not to quench such love, by such remarks as, "don't be running after bugs, caterpillars and stones all the time;" which will send a cold chill over the entire being of the child, which will require but few repetitions to "stamp out" all love for science forever.

The parents—the farmers, to a great extent—

have this matter in their own hands; when they are willing to work for their own interest, and conjointly, they can regulate the matter of education as well as many others of importance; but so long as they remain inactive, and passively allow professional men to legislate for them; no, not for them, but *against* them, they need hardly expect any assistance, or even sympathy.

The farmer is *the man* of this country, and can force the acknowledgment of the fact from all other occupations and professions, when all are ready to combine to that end.

Columbia, Conn.

WILLIAM H. YEOMANS.

MUSCLE.—BRAIN-POWER.—The questions of brain-power and muscle, and their relative importance in the business of farming are scarcely, if ever considered by those who should be most interested in them. The following extract from the *Industrial Monthly* has a bearing on this subject:

"In all ages farming has been looked upon as the pursuit that ignorant and lazy people could always resort to with a fair show of succeeding. It is difficult even now to convince more than one man in ten, that any such thing as intelligence and skill is needed in farming. The assumed position of the masses, is that it does not matter how little a man knows if he is to be a farmer in fact, that knowledge is a damage rather than a benefit.

And it must be confessed that there is some show of truth in this position, so far as muscle is concerned; a case occurs to me that illustrates this point. A young man of the Empire State, who had by instruction and practice become a pretty skillful operator on the farm, able certainly to hold his own in all ordinary pursuits of the farm and dairy, made his way through a ten year's course of study: returning each year to the old homestead; and working through the harvest. All went well while he was compelled to work for means to enable him to study; but when he had become once graduated, became full-fledged, work seemed to grow irksome. The summer after leaving college, he said that years of sore trial and severe experience had convinced him that intellect did not aid much in those pursuits that required muscle; that when it came to mowing fourteen hours in the hot sun, or pitching on a load of hay with a thunder-storm hurrying a fellow up, a great stiff, burly Irishman was fully a match for a college graduate.

It was, after all, a question of discipline and inherent strength and muscle and not a question of brain at all.

But, it is in devising and adapting, that brain-power tells.

It must be conceded that brain-power is the all important power, even in farming, for there are very few things but what can be done by skillful manipulation to very great advantage, and none but what can be improved in some measure.

Agricultural Calendar.



FARM WORK FOR APRIL.

In April the farmer begins his work in earnest. The weather is usually favorable and the ground in order for plowing and harrowing. If the ground is cloddy, crush the lumps by a heavy roller. A properly constructed roller is one of the most necessary implements on a farm, that is managed on correct principles.

The *Corn crop* is the first main thing to be attended to, if the oats and grass seeds have been sown. If they have not, then that work must be done as quickly as possible. We presume the fences and drains have been put in order, and the fields neatly cleaned up.

CORN.

We prefer, for various reasons, drill-planting—the grains dropt 12 to 15 inches apart, and the rows three feet apart or 40 inches apart. If planted in checks or hills, the ground ought to be checked or worked 3 by 4 feet. Two stalks in a hill.—In planting, enough seed should be put in, 6 to 8 grains in the check-row corn to the hill. This will allow for the worm and the birds. But fewer grains would answer and less work in thinning the plants, if proper preparation was made for these marauders. Four or even three bushels of *salt*, sown broadcast a week before the corn is planted would almost effectually drive off the worm and hasten the early growth of the corn. As for the *birds*, they should be protected, for the use they have been in destroying the millions of worms and other insects that are so destructive to this crop. Our experience has taught us that the birds are easily managed in two ways. First, they have found plenty of food on the field during its preparation in the number of worms, &c., exposed by plow and the harrow. They naturally resort to this as their feeding ground, and when the worms are not to be had they find, by scratching for them, corn in the hills, soon learn to find it at regular distances by its appearing above ground. Now if, when the corn was planted, some refuse corn of little value was scattered along the balks or head-lands and a

supply kept there until the corn gets too strongly rooted to be pulled up, the birds would not be likely to leave plenty to hunt for that which gives them some trouble to get at. Also, let the corn be soaked in tar-water in which some copperas or salpetre has been dissolved, and the grains, being coated with a thin covering of tar diluted to a thin mucilage by the warm water, then rolled in plaster or ashes and planted. It is distasteful to the birds and they desist to hunt for such unpalatable food, and get their fill from the head-lands, where it has been provided for them. After the corn is planted use the Thomas' Smoothing Harrow, right and left, lengthwise and crossways, alternately over the field, once in six days until the corn is large enough to thin out, then put in the double shovel iron plows and after three or four workings with these, going twice in a row, the corn will do to lay by and be mostly clean of grass and weeds. Corn fields must be often stirred, at least every week, and especially in dry seasons, until it begins to show signs of going to tassel. It will not bear neglect, and if left in grass for a fortnight, when worked it will fire or be injured, and a poor crop had, if its growth be once checked, no matter how rich the soil. *Clean culture and heavy manuring makes the big crop* of that, which is certainly the *King* of all American cereals.

TOBACCO.

Keep the beds clear of grass, and as they grow, if too thick, thin by raking. The proper rake for this purpose is a handle of usual size and length, inserted in a cross piece of hard wood, 16 or 18 inches long, 2 inches wide and two thick: in this are inserted one inch apart, iron teeth, $\frac{3}{8}$ broad, $\frac{1}{8}$ thick, 2 inches long below the wood, with the lower end a little inclined inward, and made sharp.—That part of the tooth passing through the wood can be round and small like a ten-penny nail, with a point to clinch in the wood. But few planters have this implement so convenient for a regular thinning of the plants, hence we have endeavored to give a particular description of it. By a motion toward the raker and then again from left to right, almost any careful hand will be able to leave the plants about an inch apart. Do not be afraid to use it freely. The inexperienced will be shocked, to behold his bed thickly set, after the skillful operation of the raker—like he who first looks on his vigorous vine after the vine-dresser has manipulated it. We advise a dressing for the growing plants of a good sprinkling of bone-meal with some soot mixed with it, or tobacco dust, and one pound of flour of sulphur to a bushel of dust, often applied lightly to the plants when tender and liable

to destruction by the fly. Either of these preparations we advise, for the rapid growth of the plant, and to drive off the fly. By the way: has any one ever tried a weak solution of Paris-green sprinkled over a bed infected with that terrible pest—the fly? Might it not be as effectual as against the Potato Bug?

POTATOES.

Plant at least half of your crop of winter potatoes. We, of course conclude, your early ones are up; been worked, and growing finely before the bugs come.

STOCK OF ALL KINDS.

Give your stock, of all sorts, once or twice a week, some salt and ashes mixed in equal parts, either in the food or alone. Less salt for hogs; and a little sulphur; hogs require some salt, but if given at one time more than it should have, will not only suffer but will probably die. We have known hogs to be killed by too much salt, just as we had a fine Devon cow killed by over eating herself on horse-radish. The best plan is to have a large lump of Turk's Island salt where the different kinds of animals on the farm can have free access to it, at all times when they feel disposed to lick it.

Attend to your sheep at this season especially, and let them have the best of care. So do to the milch cows, and younger stock especially.

PASTURES

Sow plaster over your grass lands intended for pasture or for hay, and keep your stock as long as possible off the clover, at least until it gets almost into bloom. Very young clover is not wholesome to cattle, and if in that state it be eaten off, rarely recovers to make a good growth thereafter.

Mr. John Quincy Adams, says and exchange, was in his ninetieth year when Charles Mackey first visited this country. He was in excellent health, the cause which he explained to Dr. Mackey. "Men and women," he said, scarcely ever allow the fresh air of heaven to touch any part of their bodies except the hands and face, and even to these the ladies are systematically unjust by wearing gloves and veils. I take my air bath regularly every morning, and walk in my bedroom in *puris naturalibus*, with all the windows open, for a full half hour. I also take a water bath daily. I read and write for eight hours a day. I sleep eight hours, and devote another eight hours to exercise, conversation and meals."

Eggs have been selling in Vicksburg at seventy-five cents a dozen.

Orchard Grass.

Orchard grass makes good winter pasturage—equally as good as blue grass, and far better pasturage in seasons of drought than blue grass, as it is a deeper and larger rooted plant, and resists drought better. When once established, it can be fed as closely as any other grass, and is no harder on land than any other. Indeed, land pastured in orchard grass will continue to improve in fertility. If half of each of our farms were well seeded to orchard and other grasses, it would be of great advantage to them.

For pasturage, however, we recommend a variety of grasses, and thick seeding. Stock like variety, and thrive better on it. Each variety has its season of greatest excellence, and thus the best pasturage can be kept up throughout the year. The common red clover should be sown with the grasses for all pastures. It is a rank grower, and resists drought admirably. We are glad more attention is being paid to pasturage. Improved farming can not be carried on without it, and in nothing are the majority of our farmers more neglectful than in not seeding more of their farms to good pastures.

Now, that the live stock interests are beginning to look up, is the proper time to give attention to this matter. Tens of thousands of bushels of orchard grass, blue grass, timothy, red-top and clover ought to be sown early this spring, for pasturage purposes. Hundreds of tons of beef are going weekly to Europe in refrigerator ships, and it will not be long before America supplies a large part of Europe with meat. Hogs need pasturage, too, as well as cattle, horses, sheep and mules. We hope all our readers will make additional pastures this spring.—Colman's Rural World.

"May they always live in peace and harmony!" was the way a Yankee marriage should have wound up. But the compositor, who couldn't read manuscript so well, put in type and horrified the happy couple by making it read: "May they always live on peas and hominy."

Let every farmer's family make it a rule to have reading around the fireside during the long winter evenings. It will tend to make good readers, and confer much benefit on all.

When a man takes a bull by the horns his chance of getting over the fence is a toss up.

Some women won't be happy in heaven unless they can scrub it out once a year.

GARDEN WORK.



GARDEN WORK FOR APRIL.

This month the gardener has his whole time occupied. The earlier vegetables and salads require frequent working with the rake and hoe; hot-beds and cold-frames are to be attended to; hills for vines, such as Melons, Squashes and Cucumbers, to be prepared and poles planted for running beans, &c. Plant Peas, Beans, Beets, and all hardy vegetables.

Corn.—Plant early corn, at different times during the months, for succession.

Cabbage.—Set out such plants as are large enough.

Onion sets.—These should be planted as early as possible, and onion seeds sown.

Radish, Lettuce, Corn Salad and Spinach.—Make new beds of these for succession.

Peas.—At the time of sowing the early sorts sow a few rows of Marrow Peas—the Blackeyed Marrow Peas are very good—by sowing these now, you will find that they will be ready as the early sorts are going out, and thus the table will be supplied daily, without intermission, with this popular luxury.

Celery, Cauliflower and Brocoli.—Prepare small beds and sow thinly these seeds in drills 4 inches apart. Press the earth over them and keep the surface moist, as the plants grow, thin them to three inches apart and set in separate beds, or between the drills, the plants you draw out. Thus the plants will grow strong and stocky, for setting out in May or first of June. The celery seed is usually soaked a few hours before sowed, then well rubbed in plaster or fine ashes or lime, and they are sown thick.

Parsley.—Get the best curled double sort, soak in warm water 12 hours, roll in dry ashes or other material as recommended above for celery, then sow in drills 6 inches apart in a very rich well prepared bed and thin out the plants to 4 inches apart in the rows. Parsley likes a light, moist soil and

stands the shade well. We grew it very fine on our Grape border, letting the plants stand a foot apart. We sowed it in a box, and transplanted to the grape border and it was both useful and very ornamental, as the improved sorts are remarkably pretty plants, and for that reason are used sometimes as edgings for flower borders in gardens, where the useful is properly blended with the beautiful. Other culinary herbs may now be planted or the seeds sown.

Asparagus and Rhubarb.—If not done last month, remove the covering and fork up the beds lightly.

Small Fruits.—Prune these, loosen the soil around the roots; tie up such as require it, and thin out branches where necessary, and mulch with leaf-mold, coarse stable manure, or old straw to keep down weeds, retain moisture and afford fertility.

Small fruits of all varieties should now be set out and new plantations made of such as may be wanted.

Multum in Parvo.—If you desire to have that constant comfort, and indispensable luxury for the family during the year—a good garden—so contributive to the health of all who enjoy the varieties of table vegetables, you must begin in time and never lose sight of a few rules. *Make the garden soil very rich. Sow the best seeds of the best varieties. Keep the grass and weeds entirely out of sight, and the ground always light, by often stirring with the rake and the dutch hoe.* If the ground be stiff use the spading-fork between the rows and about such sturdy plants as require deep culture.

Every gardener ought to be supplied with, at the least, the following implements; Spade, spading-fork, large hoe and dutch hoe, rake, reel, scoop-shovel, saw, garden shears, hand pruning shears and a wheelbarrow. There are, and many others, of course, necessary to the best system of gardening.

No one is more deserving of high reward than the farmer who works diligently and intelligently, and leads an upright life. Health and happiness cannot fail to keep company with such a life, but the old saying of "Early to bed and early to rise" is also indispensable.

Virginia proposes to keep her highways in repair by sentencing her criminals to use the shovel and pick. It would be a good joke on the highways if there were no criminals.

"Tottering Lily of Fascination" is the name of the wife of one of the Chinese Ambassadors to England.

Application of Manures.

Discussion in the Western N. Y. Farmers' Club: President Dewey applies all of his manure in a green state and plows it under. Stables all of his stock and throws all the manure into the cellar, and as it accumulates, draws it out in winter and spreads on the ground he intends to plant in spring. Puts on a liberal dressing, as much as he can plow under well, and plants what he can manure. The manure tells on the corn.

Mr. Quinby agrees with Mr. Dewey, that the best way is to apply the green manure directly to the soil, drawing it out in winter. Considers liquid manure more valuable than the solid.

Mr. Hickox saves the liquid manure from thirty to forty head of cattle. Has a tile drain under the cattle which carries the urine into a reservoir.—Has drawn ice from that reservoir and scattered over the ground with wonderful effect. In summer dips it upon a pile of solid manure, keeping it from heating. Has compared results of different ways, and realizes greatest benefits from that drawn in winter. Would not house it, too much labor. Don't believe we can apply more manure than a crop needs. Don't believe that we can put manure on the surface so as to lose it forever.—Ground will absorb some and atmosphere some.

Mr. Allis would apply manure as soon as made, but if it is to lay a week, would house it. Can raise almost twice as much on his farm as when he bought it, about eighteen years since. Keeps his sheep in a yard and under the shed; throws enough litter under the shed to keep it dry, and as sheep pass their nights under the shed, and days mainly in the yard, their droppings are about equally distributed, and yet he considers a load of that under the shed worth twice as much as of that in the yard. Would draw and spread in winter.

Mr. Jones would draw out manure as soon as possible after it is made in winter, and has no fears of losing it even if spread upon the snow. Believes we can burn up our manure so as to get no good of it.

Mr. Hulst practices turning his composts a few times when they will rot down without burning.—Would draw his manure on corn ground in winter, but for potatoes would draw fine manure at time of planting and thoroughly mix with the soil.

A. G. Newton said a friend of his, in Chenango Valley, keeps fifty cows, and has but little straw. He cleans out his stables every morning and spreads upon his meadows; spreads every day in the year, and finds that spread in August does the most good. Manure drawn out in winter does most good. If we pile manure we must keep it wet or it will be-

come fire-fanged and worthless. Would have a reservoir for liquids and throw on the solids in summer.

Mr. Dann had, for the last four years, experimented with the best fertilizers he could obtain.—Can purchase fertilizers for \$40 a ton, cheaper for raising small fruits, than barn-yard manure at fifty cents, at his place. Has bought bone-dust and superphosphates and used them with profit.

T. S. Hubbard, of Fredonia, N. Y., wants practical results. He has used phosphate and stable manure on grapes, and thinks he would prefer the latter at \$2 a load to the former at \$30 a ton.

Mr. S. D. Willard thought we should handle the question of special manures carefully. Farmers of Western New York are inclined to use them.

W. J. Fowler thinks farmers can use special fertilizers without danger, his father having used them with good results, for eleven years, but orchards are different; trees want carbon, and perhaps barn-yard manure keeps the soil porous.

H. D. Adams said barn-yard manure should be applied to trees in autumn, and commercial fertilizers dug in, in the spring.

Mr. Hooker favors barn-yard manure. Thinks fruit growers and farmers liable to fall into error by using stimulating manure. By using liquor a man can stimulate the system so as to do more than is good for it, and rapid growth will be at the expense of a relapse. Don't think that Providence intended we should go to Charlestown for manures. We want to keep stock, and they furnish the basis of success.

R. J. Swan, Geneva, said if the right kind of food is fed to animals they will make good manure. Uses commercial fertilizers, but don't depend on them. Bought a poor farm, and kept stock, and its yield constantly increased.

First-class apples have recently been bought in Boston at \$1 a barrel for shipment to England, to which country large quantities are now being sent.

In Baltimore and Washington good apples, such as the Baldwin, the Northern Spy, and some others, sell for \$2.00 to \$2.50 per barrel.

The apple crop in Michigan is immense, and through Hillsdale, Lenawee, Ingham, Jackson, and Shiawassee counties, thousands of barrels lie at the depot awaiting shipment.

The Winter butterflies of Oregon are singularly beautiful. They live on snow, and look like rainbows, made into humming birds.

A 51 pound beaver, lately caught, is the cynosure of Chattooga, Ga.

Plaster, or Gypsum.

We find the following lucid comments, upon the above useful fertilizer, in the *Farm Journal*:

Farmers have no better friend than their old true-penny gypsum, or, as they generally call him, "Plaster." Our chemical friends, who are always ceremonious and exact in matters of scientific etiquette, style him "Sulphate of Lime," being a combination of sulphuric acid and lime.

Let us explain this, avoiding, as far as possible, the use of any abstruse-looking technicalities: Sulphate of lime is composed of sulphuric acid and lime, in the proportion of about 42 parts, by weight, of the first to 33 of the latter. Sulphuric acid is sometimes called the Hercules of acids, because of its great superiority in strength over the others. It can drive out almost any other acid from any of its combinations, and set itself in its place. It has a strong attraction for the class of substances called in chemistry bases—and which comprises first, all the alkalies—the best known of which are potassa, soda, and ammonia; second, the earths, which are somewhat like the alkalies in nature, though not nearly so strong. These are lime, strontia, magnesia, and baryta; third, the whole list of metals not included in the above list. The relative strength of these substances is in the order that we have named them.

Now, it follows that, as sulphuric acid is the strongest acid, its strongest affinity is for potassa, next for soda, then for ammonia, and afterwards for lime. There are three other alkalies that come in between ammonia and lime—lithia, caesia and rubidia, but they are very rare, and need not now be considered. This explanation will help to understand the present accepted theory of the way sulphate of lime acts as a fertilizer. Ammonia, as we all know, is a great promoter of vegetation, on account of the nitrogen it contains. Ammonia is constantly being produced everywhere, by constantly decaying animal and vegetable matters, and being a gas, is blown hither and thither over the surface of the earth. This sulphuric acid, in the plaster, forms a combination with carbonic acid, a very weak acid, which is also universally distributed.

The new compound is still gaseous, and floats about on the wings of the breeze until it comes in contact with the sulphate of lime. The strong sulphuric acid, and the strong alkali, ammonia, cleave to each other, forming a sulphate of ammonia, which, being solid, sinks down upon the earth and nourishes the roots of the plants. The abandoned carbonic acid and lime form a new combination

called carbonate of lime, which is of some account in contributing to the fertilization of the field.

In mechanical terms, this great power or faculty for forming compounds, is known as its *absorbing* power, for good plaster, in a dry state will absorb many times its own bulk in gases and moisture, and retain them for the use of the plants.

Clean Your Cisterns.

Last month we gave, in the MARYLAND FARMER, some timely hints, in the interest of *good health* to keep cellars and wells clean; we here add sensible hints, in the same direction, on cleaning cisterns:

At the meeting of the Scottish Society of Arts, Dr. Macadam communicated a paper "On Sediments in Domestic Cisterns." Dr. Macadam stated that he had devoted special attention to the subject, and was now convinced that in many cases the evil effects of impure water were traceable to contamination by its being retained in cisterns containing deposits lying there for lengthened periods. These sediments in cisterns were primarily formed by the clayey and earthy matter carried by the water into the cisterns, and settling at the bottom. If these deposits solely consisted of earthy matter, there would be no serious objection to their remaining, but the analyses of a number of sediments taken from cisterns in different parts of Edinburgh proved that the earthy matter was intermingled with minute particles of carbonate of lead derived from the action of the water upon the lead of the cistern, as well as of organic matter derived from ordinary street or house dust, from insects, and so on, and even at times a stray mouse.

When the water is being drawn from the cistern and fresh water running in, a portion of the fine sediment is for the time raised in suspension, and flows out with the water, which thus becomes contaminated with lead and organic debris; and even when the cistern is emptied by the ordinary pipes, the sediment remains, still further accumulating from time to time. The analysis of the water supplied to the city, before entering the house cisterns, and of the water which had stood for a week over the deposits or sediments from cisterns, showed that the water suffered serious contamination.

The remedy, Dr. Macadam stated, lay in the periodic cleansing out of the domestic cisterns at least every three months, which should be done by taking out the waste pipe and using a very soft brush for removing the sediment. Care, also, should be taken that the surface or skin of the lead of the cistern was not disturbed or scraped.—*North British Agriculturist.*

Oats vs. Corn for Live Stock.

Concerning this subject, Dr. Janes, the Commissioner of Agriculture, of Georgia, writes as follows:

"Taking into consideration the cost of production, the chemical analysis and the comparative freedom from the stealage, oats are cheaper as stock food than corn. One bushel or fifty six pounds of corn costs fifty-eight cents, while one bushel or thirty-two pounds of oats costs twenty-nine cents, making a difference of thirteen cents in the cost of one hundred pounds of the two. Chemical analysis shows that oats contain twelve per cent of albuminoids, or flesh and muscle producing principle, while corn contains ten per cent. It will thus be seen that for work animals oats are more valuable than corn as food when equal weights are used. Consider, now, that one hundred pounds of oats cost thirteen cents less than one hundred pounds of corn, and the case stands decidedly in favor of oats for work stock."

In fat producing properties, corn has seven per cent., oats six per cent. It will be seen, therefore that when equal weights only are compared, corn has the advantage as a fat producer. But taking the cost also into consideration, there is no choice in this respect. Another decided advantage of oats for our climate, and especially for summer use, is, that while they supply more muscle they are less heating and more invigorating to the work animal consuming them. Still another advantage is freedom from rotten grain and weevil, which frequently causes corn to injure stock. Still another item in favor of oats is that freedmen do not eat them, nor can they so rapidly sell them when stolen. This corresponds with the fact that ninety-six per cent. report that cotton can not be raised at a profit on bought supplies. Eighty-four per cent. say that cotton can be raised at a profit at present prices on supplies made at home. This is readily understood, in view of the fact, that bought corn and oats cost from two to three times as much as home made, that, as reported by correspondents, only forty-seven per cent. of a home supply of pork is raised in the State, and that, while it costs an average of sixty dollars per head to raise a mule or horse on the farm, \$1,000,000 were expended last season in their purchase from droves, at an average cost per head of more than twice the cost of raising them. Notwithstanding this enormous annual outlay in horses and mules, and the fact that it cost only sixty dollars to raise them to three year old, only six thousand and thirty-three are reported annually foaled in the State.

FOOT-ROT IN SHEEP.

As far back as 1833 I had a flock of 800 on my homestead, Weybridge, one-third of which were inoculated and lame. This was the first appearance of disease in that quarter. But by prompt attention and perseverance, the disease was mastered and the sheep all cured in a very short time, by judiciously paring the hoofs and applying a solution of vitriol water to the foot of every animal twice each week, and removing the sound from the lame ones into the fields not infected previously.

It is shiftlessness and sheer negligence on the part of shepherds to allow the foot-rot to remain, summer and winter, among their flocks, causing the neglected animals so much pain and suffering. The vitriol wash should be applied while warm, and the most effectual mode would be to dip the feet down into the liquid. It is more easily cured during the cold winter months. Freezing weather destroys the inoculating properties when dropped upon the ground. But during the warm months infected matter may remain a long time in the sheep-walks and not lose its vaccinating qualities. Due diligence and applications well applied, will cure any infected flock on the farm. I have treated thousands in this way; usually placing the sheep in a trough, or box, on its back, about twenty inches above the ground, to hold the animal and facilitate the work. This foul disease and scab were imported into the United States from Germany at first. The Saxon merinos were impregnated before landing on our shores. There is no estimating the damage it has entailed upon the flocks of this continent.—S. W. JEWETT, in *New York World*.

Glanders in Horses.

We have received a neatly printed pamphlet, of 32 pages, on "the history, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of Glanders and Farcy, in Horses," by John R. Page, M. D. professor of Natural History and experimental and practical Agriculture, in the University of Virginia, at Charlottesville, Va.

Dr. Page had large experience, and made hundreds of examinations and experiments in regard to the subject, on which he treats, during the recent war, and has prepared his treatise with great care and fidelity; so that we believe it will be of great advantage to those who study it, and practice the knowledge which it affords; and we think every owner of horses would be benefitted by having this pamphlet.

Bears with four inches of fat on their loins are shot in North Carolina.

Oat Meal, Bone and Muscle.

Liebig has shown that oatmeal is almost as nutritious as the very best English beef, and that it is richer than wheaten bread in the elements that go to form bone and muscle. Professor Forbes, of Edinburgh, during some twenty years, measured the breadth and height, and also tested the strength of both the arms and loins of the students in the university—a very numerous class, and of various nationalities, drawn to Edinburgh by the fame of his teaching.

He found that in height, breadth of chest and shoulders, and strength of arms and loins, the Belgians were at the bottom of the list; a little above them the French; very much higher the English and highest of all the Scotch and Scotch-Irish from Ulster, who, like the native of Scotland, are fed in their early years with at least one meal a day of good milk and oatmeal porridge.

Speaking of oatmeal, an exchange remarks that a very good drink is made by putting about two spoonfuls of the meal into a tumbler of water. The Western hunters and trappers consider it the best of drinks, as it is at once nourishing, unstimulating, and satisfying. It is popular in the Brooklyn navy yard, two and a-half pounds of oatmeal being put into a pail of moderately cool water. It is much better than any of the ordinary mixtures of vinegar and molasses with water, which farmers use in the haying or harvest field.—*N. Y. Mail.*

THE DEATH OF A \$50,000 STALLION.—Wilkins Micawber, a famous stallion of Woodlawn stock fame, New Windsor, owned by Major Thomas Morton, and valued at \$50,000, died on Tuesday, of congestion of the lungs. He was eight years old. His owner paid \$7,000 for him when the horse was but two years old. He was bred by Charles Bachman, of Stony Ford, Grange county, and sired by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, dam Lady Brown. Morton was offered \$35,000 for Micawber at the state fair last fall, where he took first premium for himself and colts. Micawber was very speedy, but not trained.—*N. Y. Sun, August 10th.*

General G. S. Meem has recently purchased the sheep which took the highest prize at the Centennial. The General has now the first stock of sheep in the State. Some of them weigh over three hundred pounds each. From 102 ewes, last year, he raised 122 lambs worth about \$8.00 per head. He was offered \$3.00 per head for the wool.—*Shen. Herald.*

A Georgia wedding is not thought recherche unless the groom has a spike-tail coat.

The Torture of Tight Reins.

The severe bearing rein, as used by coachmen generally, is nothing more nor less than horrible and needless torture to the poor suffering horse—torture while in harness, and the cause of internal maladies when he is put back into his stall for food and supposed rest. If there is one thing more opposed to natural health than another it is the increased production and then the waste of the saliva which is so necessary to the functions of the body. Who ever saw a horse in a field foaming at the mouth? Who ever saw a properly bitted hunter do so when ridden to the bounds in an easy bit and obedient to a light hand? I never saw it, nor do I think any one else has seen it; therefore, to begin with, the position of the carriage horse's head, gagged with a bearing-rein out of place, and that profusion of saliva ever falling from the mouth, must show something essentially wrong. The perpetually tossing head arises from the fevered state of the poor animal, and his consequent attempts to get rid of an irritating infliction, and not from the vulgar idea of a fiery wish to be put in action.—Of this I am certain, that the less artificial constraint you put into a horse's mouth the better. The less you cumber his graceful limbs with lumber in the shape of harness the better. The freer you keep his limbs and his respiratory organs the longer he will serve you, and the greater will be the labor he will perform for you.—*Hon. Grantly F. Berkley.*

SWINDLING HORSE JOCKEYS.—The directors of the Buffalo Driving Park Association have expelled Dan Mace, driver of mare Frank, and E. A. Rood, driver of horse Allen, for jockeying and unfair driving in the race of Thursday last, 2:32 class, which was won by Thorndale; also, Frank Van ness, driver and reputed owner of horse Albemarle, for an attempt to perpetrate fraud by holding Albemarle so as to prevent his winning a race, and have also ruled horse Albemarle from the track. This action has met with decided approval by the sporting men gentlemen of this city.

P. M. S. Bird, of Shenandoah county, Virginia, shipped to Philadelphia a few days ago, fifty cattle, which averaged over 1,500 pounds each. They were purchased for the Europe market and immediately shipped to Liverpool.—*Winchester Times.*

Kansas is bound to complain. Last year she sent out grasshopper missionaries begging for bread. This year she says there are not men enough in the state to harvest the enormous crop of grain.

THE DAIRY.

Dairymen's Meeting.

At the meeting held at Belleville, Canada. Hon. Harris Lewis read a paper on *butter making*, from which we take the following: Two things, he remarked, were necessary in order to secure a first-class article of butter, First, the right quality of milk; and second, a proper method of manufacture including packing. The cow should be in fair condition, free from sickness and disease, exempt from fear, fright, abuse, or even unkind treatment.

The discomfort of the cow first affected the quality of the milk, and afterwards the quantity. Plenty of good food and pure water should be supplied to the cows. Referring them to the question of the deep *versus* shallow setting of milk, he said that he had obtained the best results from the use of shallow pans, though he believed that, with certain conditions, both systems were about equal. As to the temperature of the milk, he approved of from 58 degrees to 60 degrees during hot weather, and 60 to 65 in cool or cold. The milk should be skimmed when it became perceptibly sour. Too much acid should be guarded against in warm and bitterness in cold weather.

Cows Holding Back Milk.

A cow carries her milk from one meal of her calf to another, or from one milking to another, held firmly in little reservoirs distributed all through the udder. The valves which open and close the passages from these reservoirs to the teats are under control of the will, but like the muscles which close the necks of the bladder, they are naturally and constantly kept closed, and are only relaxed or opened by a special effort of the will. At milking time these valves by a relaxation of the cords which control them are opened and the milk let down in a flood upon the teats. This relaxation does not last long. After a little the special effort to hold open the valve ceases, and they instinctively close again, shutting off the flow from the reservoir to the teats, and retaining in the reservoirs any milk which may not have passed out.—The habit of not “giving down” consists in shortening the time of this relaxation, thus stopping the flow from the reservoirs to the teats before the milk is all drawn. The circumstances which tend to make a cow shorten this period of relaxation are, rough treatment, fear, grief, solicitude, loud noises; in short any thing that attracts attention, and makes the cow uneasy. The circumstances which induce a prolonged relaxation are comfort and quietude, and freedom from disturbance and excitement.—*Exchange.*

To Make Cows give Milk.

A writer, who says his cow gives all the milk that he wants, says:

If you desire to get a large yield of rich milk, give your cow, three times a day, water slightly warm, slightly salted, in which bran has been stirred, at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water. You will find, if you have not found this by daily practice, that your cow will gain twenty-five per cent. immediately under the effect of it. She will become so attached to the diet as to refuse to drink clear water unless very thirsty, but this mess she will eat almost any time, and ask for more. The amount of this is an ordinary water pail full each time, morning, noon and night. Your animal will then do her best at discounting the lacteal. Four hundred pounds of butter is often obtained from good stock, and instances are mentioned where the yield was even at a higher figure.

How to Make a Lactometer.

Any housekeeper who desires to test the purity of the lacteal fluid furnished daily by the milkman, can furnish herself with an impromptu and, to all purpose, an efficient lactometer in this way. Procure a glass bulb and stem, both hollow; load it with quicksilver, sand or even bird shot, until the instrument will float upright in milk known to be pure. Mark on the stem the point to which it sinks—the surface point. Remove it from the milk and float it in pure water, marking the surface point as before, which will be considerably higher on the stem than the other mark. Now take a narrow slip of paper, capable of being rolled lengthwise, and insert it in the stem of the instrument so that the figures on it will be visible through the glass. Lay off on this—in the direction of its length—a space equal to the distance between the two surface points, numbering the first point 0 and the other 100. Subdivide this space into ten or twenty proportional spaces correspondingly numbered; roll the slip and insert it in the stem until the 0 is at the surface point of the milk, the 100 at that of the water. Your lactometer is now complete.—Float it in your milk-can every morning, and the depth to which it sinks will register the percentage of dishonest water, if any, the milk contains. Suppose, for example, the instrument sinks till the surface line cuts the figure fifteen. The milk contains fifteen per cent. of added water.—*Pittsburgh Dispatch.*

The planting of black walnut trees on any of worn out lands would be an excellent investment. Farmers think of it.

AGE OF COWS.

Cows live an average age of about fifteen years. Rings on the horns tell the number of their days. At four years old a ring is formed at their roots and every succeeding year another is added.

Thus, by allowing three years before their appearance, and counting the number of rings, the age of the animal is known. It is well for certain members of the human race losing their bloom, who are somewhat sensitive on the question of age, that there are no definite appearances added with annual precision to their cheeks, revealing to the eye what they keep from the ear.—*Exchange.*

A man that feeds his stock in mud knee deep, will generally find himself knee deep in debt.

MILK.—Various experiments made with fresh milk have demonstrated the fact that the nearer new milk is kept to the freezing point, in proper vessels, the more rapid is the collection of cream, the quantity is greater, and the butter and cheese, are of richer quality.

A girl screamed in a lecture audience in Layfayette, Oregon. Then all the other girls screamed. General consternation ensued, and a rush was made for the doors. People were bruised, clothes torn, and the room at length was emptied. The first screamer had seen a rat.

The Louisiana orange crop of last year is estimated to have been 32,000,000 oranges, which represent about 70, 000 trees, and worth about \$200,000 on the trees.

Young man, if you call on a young lady now, and she don't offer to start the fire, which is laid in the grate, you will be safe in calling upon some other girl next time.

Onions in New Mexico grow to the size of an ordinary water pail, and one is sufficient for several meals. Turnips have been grown there weighing twenty-five pounds. What a paradise for Colonel Sellers.

Blue glass to supply the present demand is made by all the glass factories in Baltimore city, and mere experimenting has been done with, for some time.

A Detroit boy wired down the lid of a tea-kettle, plugged up the spout, and when she popped it created all the noise he had anticipated.

The Poultry House.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Keeping Poultry Houses Clean.

I have often seen poultry houses that were so offensive that to enter them—one used to clean houses—would be tempted to hold his nose to keep off the stench. And talk about parasites, they were there by millions; and before you were in there many minutes there would be thousands of them on you.

I don't exactly understand the senses of poultry, but it seems to me such a place must be just awful to them; and then to expect them to do well and lay well in such places is folly in the highest strain. I have heard people who kept fowls in just such places say, "I don't know what is the matter with the chickens, they don't lay one egg;" and others, again, would say, "the chickens are all dying with the cholera; dog on these big, lazy white Brimmers; they ain't worth a cent, they are so apt to catch the cholera and die."

And I don't blame them, for I think death in such cases is a relief.

Now, as to one fowl, or rather breed of fowls, getting diseased easier than others, I don't understand and would like some of your valuable correspondents to bring it forth, if it is so.

But to go on with my subject; let us see if we can find a way to keep our poultry houses clean of filth and, I claim, free of disease. Well, in the first place, do not let your hens roost on the boxes, on the shelves, and in the nests, but make a nice roost by taking two or more poles and placing one end on the ground and the other against the side of house, about five or six feet from the ground, and nail across these nice, smooth poles just far enough apart so that the droppings of those higher up will not fall on those lower down, and having this done, see for a right or two that they are on it all right, and after that you will have no further trouble; and be sure you don't let the dropping lay under the roost more than three or four days, but remove to other quarters, to save for fertilizer, for it is a rich legacy to the soil.

And now for the parasites; give them a dose of thick whitewash on poles and board twice a week until the lice begin to get scarce; you need not mind if you spill plenty on the ground, it will do them good, they are there also; see that the lime gets in every crevice for there is where the lice are, and at night march out to suck the blood from the bodies of your fowls; don't fail to wash the under side of the poles and the nests, and sprinkle some disinfectant about the house often. If the para-

sites persist in sticking to your fowls, mix red precipitate and lard, rub a little on your fowls in parts most frequented by the lice, and they will crawl over it and surely die.

If these rules were followed we would not hear so much complaint about diseased and good fornothing fowls. I have never lost a fowl by disease and I dont propose to lose many, if keeping them clean does any good. A. W. FRIZZELL.

NOTE.—*Best cure*, is a mixture of 1 spoonful of cayenne pepper, 2 spoonfuls of sulphur, 4 spoonfuls of powdered charcoal, in 6 spoonfuls of dry earth, sprinkled in small quantity on the backs and breasts of your fowls, and a little in the nests.—Sulphur and charcoal, in small quantity, put in the feed, keeps the poultry healthy.

From the California Horticulturist.

Catching Hawks.

As the season is approaching when hawks are most destructive to young poultry, a method of catching and killing these marauders will be in order. It is a well-known fact that a hawk will always light on some conspicuous place close to the poultry yard, from which to swoop down on his victim. Taking advantage of this, erect a pole with a flat surface at the top just large enough to hold a strong steel trap. Fasten this trap by a chain to a staple in the pole, and await results.—No bait will be needed, for the hawk will be quite certain to light on the trap and he caught. A gentleman who has tried this method has succeeded in killing all the hawks in his neighborhood, and now can raise poultry without loss except by accident.

MILK IN NEW CITY YORK.—It is estimated that the number of quarts of milk used daily in New York City and envirous amounts to 400,000, quarts.

Alexander H. Stephens is confined to a room between those in which Henry Clay and Daniel Webster died,

Three hundred bouquets, sprinkled with \$50,000 worth of diamonds, was what Patti had to climb over to get off the stage, at her Moscow benefit.

It is sweet to have friends you can trust, and convenient sometimes to have friends who are not afraid to trust you.

To remove moths from carpets, wet a thick cloth in water, lay it on the carpet, and steam with a hot iron.

The best portrait of happiness is a laughing child.

THE APIARY.

Bee Culture.

Unless the following conditions can be maintained, it is impossible to keep bees with profit:

1. The bee keeper must have a taste for the business, and a thorough knowledge of all the laws governing the bee, combined with the necessary industry to apply this knowledge to practice. He must know what to do, how to do, and when to do.

2. The hive must be so constructed with movable frames, that each comb can be removed and replaced at will. Besides, it must afford room for boxes or frames for surplus honey. By this arrangement of movable frames we are enabled to have control over our bees, and can learn their condition; whether they have too much stores or too little; whether they possess a prolific queen, an old one, or none at all. By means of frame hives we can regulate swarming, and can build up weak stocks into strong ones. We can also more easily dislodge and exterminate the larvæ of the bee moth.

3. The colony must be strong in working bees at the very time, or the honey crop will be lost for the want of sufficient bees to gather it.

4. There must be an abundance of honey-yielding plants, and a favorable secretion of honey.

Distance Bees go for Honey.

There are instances on record showing that honey bees have gone 5 or 6 miles for honey, when there was little or none nearer. This was proved by sprinkling flour upon them on certain days, and the same bees being seen at the above distance from their hives. It must be a very mild, calm day for bees to fly such a distance. But ordinarily they do not go over a mile and a half, and the most of the honey they gather is found within a mile of their hives. No person can make bees profitable unless the most of the honey is found within that distance. On windy days bees have hard work to fly even a mile against the wind. In some foreign countries the extensive bee keepers are in the habit of removing their bees from place to place, about three miles distant, twice or three times in a season, where the honey harvest varies as to time.

THE fertility of the mother bee seems almost incredible. Writers upon the subject tell us that she will lay from 1,000 to 1,300 eggs in a single

A FABLE.—A farmer seeing a crow pull up a stalk of corn, flew into a rage, and killed it.

After picking up the dead bird, he said, "I will open the stomach of this black thief, and see how much damage it has done."

In the craw of the crow he found caterpillars, cut-worms, chinch-bugs, and divers other vermin, enough to have destroyed half his crop, and but one grain of corn.

Then the farmer exclaimed:—"Now I know I have slain my best friend!"

Moral: Let the birds live.—*Bedford Star.*

BEES IN FRUIT CULTURE.—The last (third) report of the Vermont Board of Agriculture, Manufactures and Mining, contains a paper by James F. Crane, of Bridgeport, on the Relation of Bees to Fruit Culture, in which the importance of the presence of bees as agents of fertilization in the period of bloom is shown by numerous examples.

Plaster for Tobacco.

An experimenter with plaster (*gypsum*) on tobacco plants, gives the following:

At his first cutting he selected ten plants of each, taken from rows side by side, as near the same size as he could select, and as soon as they were in a state to handle, weighed them. The ten that were from the plastered row weighed 20 lbs., those not plastered 19 lbs. At his second cutting he did the same thing from a different part of the lot. The ten plants not plastered weighed 15½ lbs., the ten plastered 23½ lbs. At his third cutting he made the same experiment in a different part of the lot. The ten not plastered weighed 15½ lbs., and the ten plastered 20½. Those several parcels were hung on separate sticks, marked and numbered, placed in the same barn, side by side, and after curing were stripped and tied up in separate bundles and weighed:

NOT PLASTERED.

First cutting,
Second cutting,
Third cutting,

lbs.	oz.
2	13
2	9
2	5

7 11

PLASTERED.

First cutting,
Second cutting,
Third cutting,

lbs.	oz.
2	15½
3	10
3	4¾

9 14

Total gain in thirty plants 2 lbs. and 3 oz.; estimated gain in his crop of 10,000 lbs. 2,215 lbs., which crop he sold at an average of \$8. Gain from the plaster, say 2,215 lbs. at \$8. \$177 20, off from four tierces of plaster, \$12; net gain, \$165 20.

One Hundred and Five Bushels of Corn to the Acre.

They make good corn crops in Cumberland Co., Pa. Among the most worthy examples of large yields, during the past year, is that of Joseph Boller, who obtained, from twenty-six acres, twenty-seven hundred and thirty bushels of shelled corn, or an average of one hundred and five bushels to the acre. The field was allowed to lay in clover for one year without pasturing. The large growth of clover was then turned under, and 250 bushels of lime to the acre applied. The ground was then cultivated and harrowed twice, and the corn put in with a planter on the 2d and 3d of May. After the corn was up, the cultivator was again called into use, and afterwards, at proper intervals, during the season, the plows were run through it three times, and the corn harvested, measured 2730 bushels of shelled corn. So much for green manuring.—*Exchange.*

A young poet of the realistic school writes "Time marches on with the slow, measured, tread of a man working by the day."

The Model Subscriber.

"Good morning, sir; Mr. Editor, how are your folks to-day?
I owe for your next year's paper; I thought I'd come and pay,
And Jones is agoin' to take it, and this is his money here;
I shut down lendin' it to him, and then coaxed him to try it a year.
And here is a few items that happened last week in our town;
I thought they'd look good for the paper, and so I just jotted 'em down,
And here's a bushel of russets my wife picked expressly for you;
A small bunch of flowers from Jennie; she thought she must do something, too.
You're doin' the grass and grain buily, as all our family agree;
Just keep your old goose quill a flappin', and give them a good one for me.
And now you are chuck full of business, and I won't be takin' your time,
I've things of my own I must tend to—good day, sir
I believe I will climb."
The editor sat in his sanctum, and brought down his fist with a thump,
"God bless that old farmer!" he muttered, "he's a reg'lar jolly trump."
And 'tis thus with our noble profession, and thus it will ever be still;
There are some who appreciate its labor, and, som
who perhaps never will.—*Exchange.*

Maryland Agricultural Society.

During the past month enquiries have made to us about the State Society, and if it is intended to hold a fair and exhibition the coming season, and where are the officers last elected?

It is to be hoped, and is highly desirable, that energetic and earnest men should take it in hand, and at once organize a society and get up an exhibition worthy of the noble old state and its former shows of fruit, grain and stock.

AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOLS.—We are glad to give our readers a very able and pleasing article, on this subject, from the live and well-known pen, of Prof. W. H. Yeomans, of Connecticut. And we are proud to be thus seconded in our humble but earnest efforts in this direction.

SALE OF A FARM.—By the Annapolis papers, we notice that Judge Wm. H. Tuck & Son, trustees, sold at the Court House door in that city, a tract of land called "Kilkenny," containing 150 acres, lying in that county, on the Patuxent river, nearly opposite Queen Anne's, in Prince George's county, for the sum of \$425.00. No improvements on the land.

TO PRESERVE TOOLS.—The following, to preserve iron and steel from rusting, is worth the attention of farmers and mechanics:

Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of camphor in 1 gill of cold-drawn linseed oil; by adding to or diminishing the quantity of oil, it may be made to any consistency desired apply this with a soft rag.

A NEW LEATHER PRESERVATIVE.—A correspondent of the *English Mechanic* suggests the following for the preservation of shoe-leather: "A solution of an ounce of solid paraffine in a pint of light naphtha, to which six drops of sweet oil have been added, is put cold—say at $18^{\circ} C$ —on the soles until they will absorb no more. One dressing will do for the uppers. The same solution without oil confers immortality on an umbrella."

EXPERIMENTAL FARM.—The University of Virginia, by Dr. J. R. Page, Professor of Experimental and Practical Agriculture, has issued a pamphlet report, giving results of experiments in growing several varieties of wheat, some of which we shall publish in another number of our Magazine. From the same source we are also indebted for a circular in regard to the Samuel Miller Endowment Institution, which will be noticed more in detail next month.

One defect, or omission in the report is, that in most of the cases the *depth* of plowing is not stated.

DEEP AND SHALLOW PLOWING.—Cultivators are aware that the depth of plowing must be controlled by the character of the soil and subsoil, and the nature of the crop. Statements of accurate experiments however always throw additional light on the subject, F. P. Root of Sweden, Monroe county, N. Y., mentions in the *Rural Home* the following trial of the two modes:

"Two years ago I tried an experiment of shallow plowing. A field was being fitted for oats, plowing about eight inches deep. Through the middle of the field, some two acres, were plowed but four inches—all was harrowed and sown down alike.—No difference could be seen in the crop till drouth came on, in the latter part of June, when it seemed to suffer much more than other parts of the field, and at harvest the crop was at least one-third less. Barley, the same season, turned out one-fourth more by measure on deep than on shallow plowing."

GRIMES' GOLDEN PIPPIN.—This is said to be a good apple for this section; larger than wine sap, high flavored, keeping till January.

A number of active young men have left Augusta county for the West during the past two months.

A forgiving heart is one of the noblest qualities which a child can possess.

Wit is the boomerang that strikes and graciously returns to the hand. Sarcasm is the envenomed shaft that sticks in the victim's gizzard.

Mrs. Partington remarks that few persons nowadays suffer from suggestions of the brain.

Turnips, strawberries, parsnips and other delicacies are above ground in Twiggs, Ga.

One fault.—It was wittily said of a beautiful French literary lady, that she had but one fault—her husband.

There is in Nicaragua a plant which when touched gives a shock like that of the electrical eel.

The peculiar odor imparted to Russia leather is by the use of birch bark tar in dressing the skins, instead of tallow or other grease.

"I think our church will last a good many years yet," said a waggish deacon to his minister; "I see the *sleepers* are very *sound*!"

A Sioux motto: White man big smart—he furnish brains; red man heap brave—he knock 'em out."

• THE
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 Proprietor

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 John F. Wolfinger,
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Clubs—Agents.

All associations, granges and farmer clubs can have the MARYLAND FARMER, for \$1.00 a year each, by sending lists or clubs of five, or more; not necessarily all from the same Post Office.

Agents, who wish to canvas for our Magazine, can keep one-third of the price of the subscription, at the regular rates; that is, send us \$1.00 and keep 50 cents on each subscriber they obtain.

The getter-up of clubs of five, sending us \$5.00, can have a sixth copy *free* for getting up the club.

NOTE AND SCRAP BOOKS.—No class of business men will derive more benefit, in pleasure and profit, by keeping a *scrap and note book*, than young farmers; a little book in which to note down, daily, what they wish to do or remember, for reference; and in which to paste useful scraps which may come into play at a future time; but which might be lost or forgotten without such preservation; it costs very little trouble or expense, and is a means for collecting a large amount of useful knowledge, ready for use.

LUCERNE, or ALFALFA.

This is a plant that we think is not sufficiently known or prized, by most of our farmers. It affords excellent feed, and is much liked by all stock, either as pasture or hay; and is an excellent crop to plow under for restoring worn lands to rich fertility—nothing better.

It has a long, large root, like a small parsnip, running deeply into the ground, where the plowing will allow of it. It grows one to two feet high, and stands up well, much better than clover; and running its roots deep makes it a sort of sub-soiler; hence, it stands the drouth and winters well. A small or indifferent yield can be obtained upon poor, shallow soils; but, upon deep, rich land it yields enormous crops; and when cut off does not impoverish the soil so much as most crops do, from the facts that the roots run deep and the foliage or plant is a great absorbent of moisture and gases from the atmosphere.

Lucerne and Alfalfa are much alike, though not identical; the latter has shorter roots, and not so deep; it is said by some that the latter is better suited to pasturage than the former, though it is not quite so rank a grower for hay and plowing under; but both of them stand the drouth and winters better than clover, for the reason that they have more substantial and longer roots, running deeper into the earth. We believe, if the value and habits of lucerne and alfalfa were better known, they would be adopted much more generally, both as a seeding crop and for green-manuring; they are hardy, rank growing perennials; in the Western states, in California, and in North Carolina they have proved satisfactory and all that could be desired by those who have long used them.

They may be mowed two or three times in the season, two to four tons, of good hay, but must not be pastured closely, as stock relish them so well they will nip the stalks off too close, clear into the ground. They will grow on all soils, that are rich and plowed deeply.

They may be planted either in drills or broadcast, though the latter is probably most desirable; quantity of seed to the acre, 12 to 16 lbs. according to quality of land—poor, requiring more; rich, less; the land should be thoroughly harrowed and rolled, in order to make it fine and smooth, free of lumps, and to cover the seed well and evenly; this culture will secure good results.

SHEEP AND RAIN.—No animals suffer more from exposure to cold rains than sheep, particularly ewes and young lambs.

CONGRESS & THE FARMERS.

We have received, from the Agricultural Department at Washington, a circular headed, "Millions for Middlemen, Pennies for Producers;" very pointedly showing the meagerness of appropriations, by Congress, for farming interests compared to the lavish appropriations for other purposes. But this neglect of the agricultural classes will continue just so long as they fail to assert their own power and rights; the farming class is the prominent and largest portion of our population; they are the source of support and supply to the government and the whole people; they wield some *four to five millions of votes*; and when they will, with manly determination and intelligent discrimination, cast their *votes* for real, earnest, intelligent *farmers*, instead of lawyers and merchants, as members of the legislatures and congress, as well as governors of states, then, and not till then, will they have fair and full representation in the law-making branches of government, and receive just recognition in the appropriation and distribution of the public funds.

We have small sympathy for them in this neglect of their high interests so long as they neglect to assert and exercise their equal citizenship and commanding powers. Here is an item from debates in Congress, in regard to an appropriation for the Agricultural Department:

Mr. Harris, of Georgia, said "the trouble is we are appropriating too much to commerce, and too little to agriculture." "There are thousand of reports of the Agricultural Department called for annually by our constituents, to one single copy called for of the reports of the Treasury Department."

Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, thought "the small amount asked for by the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee ought to be given, and that we ought either to do something with this Department of Agriculture, and not to hamper it in its operation, or else abolish it altogether. No country in the world does so little to spread agricultural information as ours."

◆◆◆◆◆

A DIP FOR SHEEP.—A lady at Spartansburg, S. C., sends the *American Agriculturist* the following receipt for a dip for sheep, as a cure for scab and ticks, which she obtained from a Scotch shepherd in Texas, who sold 16,000 lbs. of wool in one season in San Antonia. The dip is as follows: "Boil 25 lbs. of tobacco in 100 gallons of water; add 2 lbs. of sulphur, 1½ lbs. of arsenic, and 2 boxes of concentrated lye." The tobacco is boiled until the leaf is gone from the stalk, and the sheep are dipped in the mixture when it is only lukewarm.

Col. W. W. W. BOWIE'S Lecture.

We received the following from Prof. Warfield in regard to the excellent Lecture delivered by Col. Bowie, at the Maryland Agricultural College, on the 16th of March. Prof. Warfield delivered a lecture, on a previous date, which is highly spoken of.

Col. W. W. W. Bowie, of the MARYLAND FARMER, delivered a very able and interesting lecture upon agriculture before the faculty and students of the Maryland Agricultural College on Friday evening last. He took both a theoretical and practical view of the subject. He referred to the fact that we had not advanced rapidly in agricultural knowledge. Virgil's "Georgics" discussed the very subjects of high culture, drainage, irrigation, &c. The compost heap, is not of modern invention

He did not believe in naming agriculture a "calling"—but a "profession." After speaking of the "soil food" necessary to all crops he touched upon lime.

It has been considered, said he, a panacea for all ills. He did not so conceive it, but thought that lime is sometimes, not only useless but a positive evil. He favored small applications. Plaster though very cheap is very beneficial in collecting valuable gases from the air for plant food.

He referred to the fact that statistics show that we are shipping more bone to foreign markets than we are using at home. Seeing the necessity for a change in our system of Agriculture, on account of a change in the labor question, he approves the following plan for improving worn out lands.— Stimulate the land so as to produce green crops; turn these under and apply light dressings of lime. Then feed corn and hay upon the land, to sheep and other stock, thereby saving transportation in both manure and produce, and sell only the products of that feeding. We can't compete with the West in raising corn. We can do so in small products, such as mutton, beef, butter, eggs, milk, &c. He thinks that sheep are very profitable, not only as improvers of the soil, but as clothers of the world—the Englishman sees that money can be made from his sheep fold. It only needs energy and good legislation here. We are cursed with wild briars and saxifrage, sheep will destroy them and permanently improve the soil.

Col. Bowie closed his lecture by reference to the Science of Botany, claiming that it not only gave the agriculturist a knowledge of his plant growth, enabling every farmer to be his own cultivator, but it gives him the master of the floral kingdom of his country, without which no home can be made beautiful. Flowers are the people's property—and we judge of cultivation and education by our choice of floral beauties.

Col. Bowie's very beautiful and able address, was listened to with marked attention by all present.

J. D. WARFIELD,

Prof. of English, M. A. C.

TIMELY HINTS.

In the *Republican*, Marengo, Ills., we find the following useful suggestions:

The past season in Northern Illinois was rather an uncommon one. Excessive rains prevailed for several successive weeks, preventing all, or nearly all, work in cornfields on low or clayey soils. The result was splendid corn on sandy and dry soils, and failure, or a poor crop, on other soils. Our oat crop likewise was rusty and nearly worthless, on all except the driest lands. I think it is a moderate estimate to say that at least 10,000 acres of corn were planted on low grounds in this (Mc-Henry) county the past season, and that the excessive wet weather shortened on the area 30 bushels per acre, or an aggregate of 300,000 bushels, worth at present prices \$120,000. The loss on the oat crop on similar grounds is not probably less than \$40,000. And should we include the potato crop the aggregate loss would reach at least \$200,000, by excessive rains in our county. A large deficiency that farmers are ill prepared to lose.

What can we do to prevent a repetition of such large deficits? *Drainage* is the only sure remedy. A large proportion of the lands of this county would be greatly benefited by a proper system of drainage, and nearly all of our low lands have dip enough for successful work. The open drain is nearly always in the way of tillable land, and hence should be avoided as much as possible, using them only as outlets to the hidden or underground drains of some kind. The mole drain is cheap and expeditious, but will do only in stiff clay sub-soils free from sand seams. The writer gave this method a trial several years ago, but occasional beds of sand destroyed the drains. *Tile* is the surest and best material for drains, and not very far along in the future our low lands, ravines and springy clayey hills will be our best soils when properly tiled, and capable of cultivation in our wettest seasons.

I have a Scotch neighbor who has *underdrained* with tile his wet ravines, making them both dry and quite productive. Underdrainings, say our best authorities, both warm and increase the fertility of the land. Tile says some one are too expensive, which at this time is probably true, but we have the material for their manufacture all around us. And when farmers get ready, able and willing to bring them into general use, some go ahead person or company will prepare them at reasonable rates. With these few hints I leave this subject for your consideration, and will relate

one or more of my individual failures.

The latter part of last winter I discovered my lambs (tegs) were *ticky*, although most of them were in good condition. So I mixed *sulphur* quite freely with *salt* and let them have daily access to the same. They ate so much as to weaken them, and I even lost several before I thought where the cause lay. I shall be more cautious in using sulphur in the future. This season I had several late June lambs and have verified the old couplet: "A June lamb is't worth a——," for I have killed them to prevent natural death.

Our hay crop was the grandest success of the year, for which I presume we are all thankful.— You that are dairymen in view of the good prices you obtain for your products, are thankful for full pockets, while the wool-grower and grain farmers from low prices and poor crops have lank wallets.

THOS. McD. RICHARDS.

T. McD. RICHARDS, of Seneca, estimates the loss to this County in crops, by the heavy rains of last season, to be about \$200,000. A few years ago the loss for the lack of rain amounted to three times that amount, and yet we live and prosper.

LABOR FOR THE IDLE.

Any day, almost, hundreds of idle men—white and colored—may be seen in the streets of Baltimore, who ought to be at work in some useful occupation.

There is much complaint, every year, among farmers, that they have trouble to get help sufficient to carry on their operations; and just now the busy season is commencing with them, and they are willing to pay reasonable wages to all men who will do faithful labor; no honest, sober man need long be out of work, if he will be honest, in earning his wages for his employers.

Farmers have a great deal to do at this time; there is cleaning up their fields; repairing fences and buildings; picking brush, stones and stumps; cleaning out ditches and hedges; preparing the garden and fields for planting; scraping up the scattered manure, and other litter and spreading it on the land; plowing and preparing fields for corn and other crops; and lots of other work, in order to secure a good harvest some months later.

All of these operations require the work of boys, men and teams; and the farmers are willing to pay fair prices to honest men and boys to do it. Let those hundreds and thousands of men and boys, who throng our streets—a burden to themselves and a nuisance to the community—go to the country and go to work faithfully, where they are wanted and will be fed, and receive some wages beside, to lay by.

The farmers want a great deal of harvest labor, and these idle men can do it, if they will, and wish to work; then leave the streets and go to the fields to work.

To County Papers.

The MARYLAND FARMER now exchanges with many county papers, in this state and others, from many of which we get items of local agricultural interest, for which we always aim to give proper credit.

If all those exchanges will do us the favor—as many have—to kindly publish a few lines, each month, giving their views of our Magazine, and commend it to their readers, far as they conscientiously can, we will reciprocate; we think this course will be beneficial to readers.

And we are further thankful for the compliments, paid us by many, of copying from ours into their columns such articles as they deem useful to their readers, giving the proper credit; which last *some* of them have neglected to do.

We shall constantly put forth efforts to make the MARYLAND FARMER more and more useful and acceptable to all classes of readers especially to farmers, fruit growers and stock breeders; and hope to receive the encouragement of all parties interested in the agricultural improvements of our country.

GOOD READING.—We are pleased to see that the Harford *Democrat* gives its readers the benefit of whole pages of good reading from the MARYLAND FARMER, which will make some of them happy; and we have no doubt the Editor would himself be happier if he would give *proper credit* when he extracts articles from our Magazine; but this is not the first time that paper has treated its readers at our expense; yet it is welcome, to the articles, for the benefit of its readers.

PLANT CATALOGUE.—The complete descriptive catalogue, of the Mt. Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. has been sent us by Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of their large collection of rare and beautiful plants; including green-house, hot-house and bedding plants. It is handsomely illustrated with many elegant cuts, and contains a convenient index of contents.

APPLES.—Of all the many sorts of apples which keep good and are found in our markets, up to this time, there are none others we like quite so well as the *Winesap*—it is so fresh, crisp, juicy and richly flavored; it is a good bearer, and will thrive where any good apples thrive, if well treated.

Why were Adam and Eve the originators of sugar planting? Because they raised the first Cain.

Newspaper Postage.

Until within a year or two past subscribers had to pay postage on the Magazines and papers which they took; now, Publishers have to endure *all that expense*, and subscribers are relieved from it.

The present Postage Law requires publishers to pre-pay all postage on their publications, which subjects them to a large tax. Still, our subscription price is not increased, a fact which should suggest prompt payment by all just subscribers, and more of them.

WESTERN TOBACCO.—By the Western papers we see that a new feature in the Wisconsin tobacco trade is being developed this year, that will do much toward making a better reputation for our tobacco in eastern markets. Buyers of the '76 crop are having the farmers bring in their tobacco in bulk, instead of casing it, and buyers then pack the weed themselves. Owners of warehouses are enabled by this plan to sort and case the tobacco with reference to color, growth and quality. Two buyers, who have bought about five thousand cases of the '76 crop, will pack the most of it at their own warehouses. The weather last week was fine until Thursday, when a slight rain came, but, unfortunately, did not continue a sufficient length of time to put tobacco yet hanging on the lath in "case."

What do Maryland and Virginia tobacco growers think of this system?

FLORIDA.—An intelligent and humorous subscriber, "G," in Anne Arundel, writes, among other things:

"On one page of your journal I notice a brief editorial on Mr. Jacque's pamphlet on "Florida as a permanent home." I have been in that land of flowers, so-called, and agree with you, that the painters of it—like those of California and other distant regions—use too much red in their bushes; with them every thing is *couleur de rose*."

Now we have no objection to Florida, and hope everybody will go there who wish to—only don't hope for brighter pictures than will be realized.

OUR FIRESIDE.—Such is the name of a nice little weekly journal, published in this city, devoted to the interests of the Granges in particular and to agricultural matters generally; a good advertising medium. Edited by A. J. Wedderburn; price, \$1.50 per annum, with reasonable reduction to club lists and canvassers.

Hogg was a good writer; but he can't be considered a side of Bacon.

HORTICULTURE.

MARYLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its March meeting on the night of Thursday the 15th, in the Cafe of the Academy of Music, W. H. Perot, President in the chair.

The show of plants and flowers was very fine, nicely arranged on several tables; the visitors were numerous.

G. Berger exhibited a large handsome design in cut flowers, representing the national shield surrounded by thirteen stars made mostly of rose buds. Mr. J. E. Feast showed the form of a little lamb, in white flowers, labeled "Mary's little lamb;" also a small shield of cut flowers. Mr. Perot showed Camillias, azaleas, and other plants, Capt. Snow showed Orchids and other flowers. R. W. L. Raisin, flowers, plants, and bouquets. J. W. Garret, fine collections; the Patterson Park was handsomely represented. Messrs. Spence, Pentland, Massey and some others, made fine shows. Mr. Somerfield exhibited rustic work.

At the business meeting the committee made the following award of premiums:

James Pentland, \$5, for best table design; John E. Feast, \$4, for best basket of cut flowers; R. W. L. Raisin, \$3, for best pair hand bouquets; W. H. Perot, \$2, for best hanging basket; James Pentland \$5, for best display of plants in bloom; W. H. Perot, \$3, for best six azaleas; E. Hoen, \$1, for best pansies; James Pentland, \$1 for best daisies; do., \$3, for best camellias; G. Berger, special prize of \$5 for shield in cut flowers. Honorable mention was made of exhibits by C. A. Oakford, Capt. Snow, W. D. Brackenridge, John W. Garret, Andrew Patterson, a rare collection of roses; John Cook, Edward Kurtz, W. F. Massey, John E. Feast, W. W. Crosby.

The committee appointed at last meeting, reported on *herbaceous plants*; report discussed and laid on table for future consideration.

Captain Charles H. Snow, of Harford county, by appointment, opened discussion on azaleas their origin and growth. The azalea, he said, was mentioned many years before Julius Cæsar crossed the Rubicon. He rarely watered azaleas in the winter, except when they want it; too much water will rot their delicate roots; he always repots them just after they have made their growth; they should not be watered too much to rot the fine

rootlets; nor should the pots be allowed to get too hot in the sun so as to dry and burn the fine roots; the pots should be immersed when set out or mulched, so as to keep them cool, and all is safe; others participated in the discussion. Mr. Brackenridge, while speaking of our native wild rhododendrons and azaleas, remarked, that the Americans have here, in their forests, hills and valleys, many rare and beautiful treasures that they do not seem to be aware of, if they would only search out and cherish them.

On motion, "Rhododendrons" was designated as the subject for consideration at the April meeting, and the President appointed to open the discussion. Adjourned.

BRUSH AND GRAIN.—In passing through the country, from this city to Washington, we noticed some fields of winter grain which look green and promising; but we also noticed, unsightly nuisances scattered over the same fields, in the shape of little bunches of roots and brush, about as big as a bag of grain, which had been raked up and left there, but which ought to have been burnt or carried off, before the grain was sown, as they will cause trouble and waste at the harvesting, much greater than the cost of time in removing them.

WASTE.—Another beautiful sight to be seen, on portions of the route, was the nuisance of *corn-stalks* thrown over the fences into the road-way, where they make favorite nests and hiding places for vermin and weeds; but they should have burnt on the land or thrown into the manure-pile.

It is a great waste to the farmer to throw them off the land into the road; and very little more time and trouble would be required to burn them on the ground; and that would afford the two-fold benefits of manure and killing weeds and insects.

POTATOES.—It is said the potato crop of Maine, last year, probably reached 2,500,000 bushels, worth a million of dollars. In Aroostock county, some 300,000 to 500,000 bushels will be converted into starch. Large quantities are also shipped to Bangor for exportation. In Aroostook, the farmers get about thirty cents per bushel, while at Bangor, the great potato mart of the State, price ranges from fifty to sixty cents.

POTOMAC FRUIT GROWERS.

MARCH MEETING AND PIC-NIC.

The meeting of this Association was held on Tuesday the 13th at the Board of Trade rooms, Washington, D. C., and was largely attended.

As at the last annual meeting the tables were spread with eatables and "goodies," for a city pic-nic, from the homes of the members; there was plenty, and none were neglected.

The meeting was called to order at 12 o'clock noon, and the Society proceeded to the

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS,

elected at the last meeting; C. Gillingham, President, and was conducted to the chair by Col. Hiram Pitts, when he thanked the Society for the election.

The Vice-Presidents were Mrs. Harriet N. Nute and J. S. Brown; Mrs. Nute read an original poem, "The Call of Spring."

Hon. N. W. Pierson was installed as Treasurer; and Dr. J. E. Snodgrass, as Secretary, both of whom made remarks.

A communication was received from Joseph, L. Smith, calling the attention of the association to the advisability of teaching the art of fruit culture in the country schools.

This is a highly important subject and should be encouraged by earnest legislation.

A PRESENTATION.

Dr. Snodgrass, in behalf of the association, presented Mr. William H. Clagett with a handsome fruit vase. He thanked Mr. Clagett, on behalf of his fellow-members, for his kindness in granting them the free use of his office for their meetings.

Mr. Clagett in accepting the gift made a very happy little speech.

The fruit vase is of solid silver, and lined with gold; the staff is frosted, and on the base are two images with baskets of fruit in their hands. There is an appropriate inscription on the base.

A recess followed the presentation, and all enjoyed the bounteous repast prepared for them. An entertaining musical and literary programme in which many of the ladies and gentlemen took part, was carried out. The exercises were interspersed and enlightened by songs at the piano by Mrs. Daniels Mrs. King, Mrs. Kueling, Miss Hopkins, Miss Chase, Mr. Harrison and daughter, and others.

THE MARYLAND FARMER—For March is at hand. This popular agricultural journal maintains its reputation, and the publisher and editors are as enthusiastic as ever in their able conduct of this old favorite.—*Fredk. Examiner.*

Eucalyptus Globulus.

Besides being generally healthful and wholesome, as has long been known where it grows, it has recently been discovered that the essential oil and juices of the *E. globulus* are *antiseptic* and *disinfectant*; that they will preserve flesh and vegetables from decaying or putrifying a long time; that they will prevent as well as arrest mildew or fungi.—This is an important discovery, and must be of vast interest to sick rooms, wounded persons, and particularly in hospitals, for restoring health.

Prof. Thos. Taylor, microscopist for the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, has been, for some time, making investigations into this subject, with eminent success and important results; he has discovered that leaves and flowers of plants put into water, in which *eucalyptus* leaves had been soaked for a short time, retain their solidity and freshness for a long time, without apparent decay or decomposition; whereas, we all know that leaves and flowers put into water, not so treated, soon become putrid and slimy with an unpleasant odor,—Prof. Taylor also finds that a piece of fresh meat put into a dish or jar containing the fumes or gas of *Eucalyptus* will remain sweet and untainted a long time.

From all this it would seem desirable that all hospitals and even families should have one or more of these trees growing on their premises; they need winter protection, but are rank growers.

Prof. Wm. Saunders, Superintendent of the gardens, grounds and green-houses, at the Agricultural Department, showed us the growing *Eucalyptus*, and gave us useful information in regard to various species of *Eucalypti*.

SPARE THE BIRDS.—Almost daily we see men and boys in our streets with bunches, of a dozen or more, of robins and other small birds, for sale. We ought to have a law to arrest and imprison every one who kills, or sells, or eats these birds, or who is found in possession of them; they are of very little value to eat, while their services, in devouring and destroying insects, and their larvae, are highly valuable; these insects if allowed to live and mature, destroy millions worth of fruit and grain.

When we see these fellows carrying and selling birds in our streets, we feel almost like peppering a charge of bird-shot into their noses and legs; farmers should strictly and stringently forbid anybody killing birds on any parts of their farms.

Beavers and coons are numerous on the Warrior river in Alabama.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Home Ornament---Shrubs and Flowers.

It has always seemed to me, that if our farmers knew what a trifle a few flowering shrubs, hardy perennials &c. would cost, we should see a great many more of them planted. It is difficult to imagine a man so indifferent to the feelings of those around him as to wish them to live in a home, the surroundings of which are anything but home-like. It is unnecessary to cite instances; it were impossible to travel any distance in the country without seeing proof sufficient, that farmers do not bankrupt themselves by a too lavish expenditure in the purchase of material for beautifying their grounds. One may at any time see pictures of rural life in the windows of city print shops, but they represent it as it should be, rather than as it is, the ideal and not the reality as we know it.

The Norway Spruce, Silver fir, &c., so effective in the landscape of the painter, are conspicuous by their absence; the Lilac bush has been long since given up to the tender mercies of the cow, whilst in place of the neat picket fence represented in the picture, one may often find the remains of an old snake fence, generally the worst kept fence on the farm. Nor is it the ornamental department alone, in which old farmers excel in indifference to their own interest; in the matter of vegetables and small fruits, they fare very little as a rule excepting farms near to cities, manufacturing towns, &c.

There is no reason, and can be no plausible excuse offered why every farmer's family is not supplied with an abundance of good fresh vegetables and small fruits, extending over a long season. The general way of doing, is to "make gardens," put in a few seeds, fix up a little, and the whole thing is done, much in the way of a general farm crop. Now, if instead of this we take a more rational mode of gardening, and put in varieties for succession, say of peas, Carter's first crop, or Daniel O'Rourke, Laxtons Alpha, and Champion of England. If these varieties be sown on the same day in the latter part of March, if the ground be in good order, or the early part of April; they will come in in succession. The same of sugar corn, early Minnesota and Stowell's evergreen sown at the same time, one will be out of the way by the time the other is fit to use. A few rows of early potatoes, as Early Vermont or early Rose will be found acceptable. Bush Beans, Feejee is early. Black seeded wax having no strings may be used in an older condition than green-fleshed varieties. We did not, however, intend giving a list but simply to call the attention of farmers to the general indifference manifested in this particular.

Any first class Seedsman and his catalogue will give all necessary information, and the small order of the farmer will be as conscientiously attended to as will the large one of the market gardener.

What country garden ought to be without a good supply of small fruits, strawberries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries, easily kept and adapted to almost all kinds of soils.

We omitted to mention in the proper connection, a word or two as to the kinds of hardy herbaceous plants adapted to country gardens, and would just say, that two or three peonies, herbaceous Phlox, Sweet Williams, a half dozen Roses, with a few seeds of hardy annuals, sown among them will give quite a nice show, although of course this is not intended as anything like a list of what might be easily grown.

Yours respectfully,

TOM BIGBY.

TRUE ECONOMY.—A farmer does not economise, if he withholds expenditures of money and labor which would result in profitable production. If an additional expense of \$50, in manure and work, will give an increase of \$70, in crops it is bad economy to withhold the expense.

Here is a ludicrous but pointed exhibition of false economy in the action of a Western Legislature:

"In one of the committee-rooms of the Nebraska Legislature six gas-jets were burning. "Retrenchment and reform!" cried Mr. Creighton; "bring in a lamp and put out that gas; the State can't stand that expense." "Reform and retrenchment!" shrieked Mr. Van Wyck; "bring in a candle; this lamp is too expensive." "Hold!" retorted Mr. Creighton; "just look at the moon; blow out that candle." Hence it appears that in the final analysis retrenchment and reform simmer down into cheap moonshine."

And it is ruinous economy for a farmer to withhold ample food from a horse so that his ability to labor is diminished far more than the saved food; the same with a cow half fed, the loss of milk is far greater than the saving in feed; so with the fleece of sheep.

THE MARYLAND FARMER, for March, contains its usual store of timely information for gardeners and farmers. Its articles on "Salt in Agriculture" is of special interest. It treats on various other subjects, among the most important of which are: Farm work for March; How to improve worn out land; About deep plowing; Top dressing spring wheat; Clover and green manuring, and other subjects of equal importance, on horticulture.—*Somerset Herald.*—

For the Maryland Farmer.

CALIFORNIA MATTERS.

BY GEN. A. M. WINN.

BALD HEADS.

"You never miss the water till the well runs dry," nor do we miss our hair until we are bald headed. When a man or woman is neither old or young, just verging on the one and leaving the other, there is nothing more annoying than to be twitted about a bald head; just say, in the presence of ladies, "that man's head looks like the lower side of a watermelon," and he will never forgive you.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.

have been spent in trying to find out what will cure a bald head, or make the hair grow. In the summer of 1875, consul Stevens had a servant who lost his hair very early; his duty, among others, was to clean lamps, trim wicks, etc. He was so filthy in his habits, that he used to wipe his hands on his head to get rid of the oil which was in his way; he carried this on for three months, when, to his utter astonishment, he had a fine suit of glossy black hair on the top of his former shining cocoanut. Consul Stevens, also had some

DOGS, HORSES AND CATTLE

which, from some unknown cause, lost their hair, and, in some cases, the mane and tail hair dropped off. The experience of his servant induced him to try the *petroleum* on the stock, which he did and found that it effected a cure in every instance. The petroleum is rubbed in well, with the palm of the hand, by quick and exciting motions. He says the application for six or seven times, every three or four days, cured all except the mane and tail, which only requires harder rubbing and more time.

THE PETROLEUM.

used should be highly refined; and for the human head, it might be scented to suit the sense of smelling. If this cure is a general success, the manufacturers of hair oil can make a good thing of it. I have known cases, here, where men have paid hundreds of dollars in the trial of some new discovery; some have succeeded in bringing out a good head of hair; while others became disgusted and gave it up. It is an easy matter for almost any family to try it.

FRUIT TREES.

often become barren; sometimes we say, it is growing too fast; other times, that it is decaying; neither seem to be the fact. When living on my farm, the trees in some instances, were so full, that I tied a falling limb to an upright one, and after the fruit was off I would forget to cut off the strings; in the spring I always saw marked difference in bloom-

ing on the limb above the string. Our trees are not old enough, in this state to become barren by age; so our orchardists are always making experiments, and sometimes discover causes for a great many defects.

ONE OF OUR FARMERS,

some years ago, had a small leaning-apple tree; to straighten it, he drove a stake, near by, tied a string to a limb and fastened it to the stake. Next year he found the limb above the string was full of blossoms while not a bloom appeared on the balance of the tree. The theory is, that the sap in such trees hurries back to the roots so soon that it has not time to make fruit buds; and if a string is tied fast enough to hold it, or stop its hasty flow, plenty of fruit buds will be the consequence.

HE HAD TWO PEAR TREES

big enough to bear, but had never bloomed; he wound a coarse twine around the tree several times above the lower limbs, and tied it tight, the effect was truly wonderful. Next spring the whole tree above the string was literally covered with blossoms, while the lower limbs were totally barren. Since then, he says, he has frequently tried the experiment, and it has never failed in producing a similar result. He thinks June or July is the right time to use string with best effect; it should be taken off in the winter.

NEW NUTS TO CRACK.

A new and strange nut has made its appearance in our market, raised and brought here by Charles Camden, of Shasta county, California. He says, Mr. Tower owned the farm eighteen years ago, when he planted a great variety of nuts in a nursery; English and black walnuts, butternuts, hickory nuts, chesnut, pecan and others. Mr. Camden says he does not know where Mr. Tower got them. The strange nut, for want of some other name, was called *Spanish Walnut*. It is quite a thrifty tree and now measures forty-four inches in circumference. It grows into beautiful form without trimming, and there are no surplus laterals to the limbs. The leaf is a lighter green and longer and narrower than the English walnut.

IT BEARS FRUIT

in straggling clusters, from nine to twelve in a bunch, produces and matures earlier than the English walnut, is more regularly productive; has a very thin shell and is free from the bitterness common to the nut family. The taste is very similar to the butternut (the white walnut), not so oily, and most of people like it better. It is shaped like the pecan, but thicker; they average about an inch and a half in length and nearly an inch in diameter, shaping to a sharp point at one end, something like a large acorn; the shell has the same color and same wrinkled appearance of the English walnut.

The shape of kernel is very similar to the butter-nut, of the Eastern States, with the same delicate flavor.

THIS SPANISH WALNUT, so called, has not been located for any country by any person so far and it may be a cross of other variety of nuts grown in its vicinity. The oldest and most experienced nurserymen in the country have not been able to recognize it as belonging to any variety of nuts known to them in this or any other country. At any rate, it is a most desirable and new addition to the nut family, and will cause considerable excitement among the Horticulturists and farmers generally. After the Telephone and new nuts, what next?

PRESERVING PEARS AND OTHER FRUITS.

I have just returned from Washington market where I am told there is no secret about preserving and putting up fruits for the East; a car refrigerator is made, the same as the common refrigerator for hotels, boarding-houses, etc., into which the fruit is placed carefully; where it cannot decay, as long as the proper conditions are kept up.

Mr. Albert Lusk, who deals very largely in fruits here, and has been at it many years, says it won't pay to keep fruits in that way, for this market, as the people will not pay the difference.

THE GRANGERS.

have large refrigerators at their business houses where they store everything they have for sale, if it be of a perishable nature; and as they make their own ice they never run short of that article. By this arrangement meat, fruits, vegetables, butter, milk and everything of the kind are brought from the country and deposited in their ice-houses to wait with safety for a sale-day to arrive. Once in a while the supply is greater than the demand, and prices go down; but the remedy is in quicker consumption and slacker supply; then the prices go up.

THE BUSINESS SOCIETY

is a new branch of the Grange arrangement; and I am told, it is freely patronized and pays well; they do not buy and sell, but take everything on commission, and sell for the benefit of the farmers, making the deposits. It is nothing more than a co-operative commission house, with ice machine and refrigerators attached. These men are paid for their labor, and the profit and loss divided at fixed times. It is an institution of huge proportions and magnificent results.

Those who merely accumulate or preserve wealth are its servants. Those who expend it upon themselves become its victims. Those only who use it grandly are its masters.

Plant Roses.

Now is a good time to make up lists of desirable Roses and have them planted out. Among desirable and reliable catalogues, from which sorts may be selected, are Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, N. Y., John Saul, Washington, D. C., John Feast, Baltimore, Md., D. O. Munson, Falls Church, Va.; and others.

These growers all have some novelties to offer—new and rare sorts; the Hoens, Baltimore have very fine roses.

Ellwanger & Barry, offer among other novelties, the "Countess of Oxford," peculiar and attractive, with very few thorns.

Mr. Saul offers a new and rare, beauty, golden yellow, striped with carmine, called the "Beauty of Glazengwood."

Last fall we saw a rose, at the exhibition of the Maryland Horticultural Society, which we never saw before, though it may be generally known; it was exhibited by Mr. Hoen, of Baltimore, and he calls it the "Francis Arago;" it is a bright, beautiful flower, but what most attracted our attention, was the large quantity of odor, which it emitted, more than we ever noticed in any other rose, very highly scented and sweet.

We will not pretend, among the hundreds, to designate a list for others to adopt, but advise persons to consult the catalogues we have named above. For our own individual taste, for a very limited collection, we would add to those named above, Gen. Jacqueminot, Lamarque, Gloire de Dijon, Marechal Niel, Safrano, Hermosa, Gen. Washington, Giant of Battles, Alfred Columb, with a couple of Climbers, and a red and a white Moss rose.

ROSE CATALOGUES.—Carefully descriptive catalogues of *Roses*, when accurate, are very convenient to all lovers and growers of this King of all Flowers, (as the Lily is the Queen) and it is desirable to have these descriptions of the latest.

We have received the large catalogue of Roses, from that eminent and long known establishment, "Mount Hope Nurseries," Rochester, N. Y. of Ellwanger & Barry; the descriptions of varieties, old and new, are very full and distinct, just what is needed.

We have received similar catalogues from John Saul, Washington, and some others.

PATENT WHIFFLETREE GEAR.—We have received a circular of this arrangement; but the explanation does not give sufficient knowledge from which to judge of its utility.

Wonderful Yield of Potatoes.

B. K. BLISS & SONS' PREMUIMS.

The Seedings "Alpha," and "Ruby."

Bliss & Sons, last spring, offered \$500 in premiums, from \$100 to \$10, to be divided into six awards, for the largest quantities raised from one pound of seed of his two new varieties, the "Alpha," and the "Ruby."

The statement and the awards of the Committee were as follows:

The Soil and Fertilizers used, the modes of planting and cultivating, were, in most instances, the same as used and practiced previously. Several growers planted the same pieces of land which produced the premium crops of last year.

The large quantities of Fertilizers used by most competitors is something astonishing, and may well serve to disprove the general belief that heavy manuring is injurious to Potatoes. Mr. Pearson added to an already rich soil about 60 two-horse loads of manure, nearly 200 bushels of wood-ashes and 24 bushels of lime per acre, together with bone-dust and other fertilizers in smaller quantities. Mr. A. Rose, after covering his land three inches thick with rotten barn-yard manure and three bushels of wood-ashes per square rod, applied in addition a large shovelful of rotted hen manure and two handfuls of ashes to each hill, besides several surface dressings with other fertilizers. But all this must appear but a small attempt at enriching the land, to our Scotch friend, Mr. Robertson, who would not intrust his seed to a black sandy loam, four feet deep, underdrained and trenched to probably the entire depth, before spading under a coat of well-rotted cow-dung, and applying afterward to the hills three cart loads of wood-ashes, two of sheep-droppings, and several other fertilizers.

This dissection of eyes has been still more increased. In one case a pound of Potatoes was divided into 290 sets. These practical tests of the feasibility of raising large crops from small sets, become of much importance in seasons of scarcity of Seed Potatoes. For it is shown here that, even without carrying the division of the eyes to extremes, nine-tenths of the seed may be saved.

Deep culture and irrigation were practiced.

The *Alpha* has, by many growers, been declared "much the earliest of any seedlings." It was found to be "fit for use in sixty days from the day of planting," of excellent quality when cooked in any way, and gaining steadily in quality and yield. In this latter respect the *Alpha* differs from most new seedlings.

The *Ruby*, although not presenting as striking characteristics as the *Alpha*, has proved to be a valuable introduction; its very handsome appearance, combined with excellent quality, make it a valuable market variety, where red-skinned Potatoes are in demand.

Trusting that the increasing interest in Potato Culture, stimulated largely through these competitive trials, may be still more productive of information and progress in this important branch of Agriculture.

P. T. QUINN, GEO. THURBER, F. M. HEXAMER, Committee.

The awards of prizes are as follows:

Largest quantities of Alpha from one pound of Seed.

PRIZE.	Lbs.	Prem.
First....H. C. Pearson, Pitcairn, N. Y....	1,707 $\frac{3}{4}$	\$100 00
Second....J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Minn.....	1,665 $\frac{3}{4}$	50 00
Third....L. G. Clute, Manchester, Iowa.....	1,535 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 00
Fourth....P. C. Wood, Hillsboro' Ill.....	1,511	30 00
Fifth....John Tannahill, Patron, Neb....	1,426 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 00
Sixth....Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y....	1,280	10 00

Largest quantity of Ruby from one pound of Seed.

PRIZE.	Lbs.	Prem.
First....H. C. Pearson, Pitcairn, N. Y....	1,982	\$100 00
Second....J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Minn.....	1,694	50 00
Third....Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y....	1,576	40 00
Fourth....P. C. Wood, Hillsboro' Ill.....	1,571	30 00
Fifth....P. Robertson, Jedboro' Scotl'd....	1,534	20 00
Sixth....M. M. Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y....	1,353	10 00

PLEASANT VISIT.—One day last month—one of those fine spring days—we were favored with a pleasant call by Dr. Blanton, Master of Virginia State Grange; Col. McDaniels, Mercantile Agent for same; Capt. Hazlewood, Secretary of same, and publisher of the *Virginia Patron*; and A. J. Wedderburn, publisher of *Our Fireside*.

From Dr. Blanton we learned that the winter wheat in that state has suffered from the severe winter, and does not look very promising.

Deep or Sub-Soil plowing, to prevent water standing near the surface, and allowing plant roots to run deeper, does much to prevent the winter-killing of grains; a nice top-dressing, or mulching with manure, or peat, or muck, or leaf-mold, in late autumn or early winter, will have the effects of greatly preventing the destruction of winter grain by freezing and thawing, besides inducing more luxuriant growth and better yields.

AGRICULTURAL REPORTS.—Recently, when visiting a friend in Washington, we were shown a complete sett of the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, from the beginning, handsomely bound, in library style, which are for sale to any one who may wish to purchase them, at a fair price. They would make an elegant acquisition to any library; they would be of great benefit in a town or grange library of agricultural works; there are from 30 to 40 volumes, we believe.

GREEN MANURING.—We have received a pleasant letter from the publisher of the *Somerset Herald* Mr. C. W. Fountain, making inquiries in regard to green manuring for wheat; and in which he also volunteers the following very kind views of the *MARYLAND FARMER*:

"Your excellent monthly is always filled with articles of great value to farmers and gardeners."

He then asks for information in preparing "a field of light, poor land for wheat—and if it will pay to sow buckwheat and turn-under about latter part of August or first of September, &c."

REPLY.—It will undoubtedly pay, if well done. Let the plowing now be done a little *deeper* than usual; harrow thoroughly, both ways; sow the buckwheat, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bushels the acre; then go carefully over with a heavy *land-roller*, to crush lumps, settle the seed, and smoothen the surface. When the buckwheat is all up, 2 or 3 inches high, sow $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bushels of plaster, the acre. When this buckwheat is turned under plow a little shallower than the spring plowing. We should rather prefer *field peas* to buckwheat; rye is also very good for this purpose; also, German millet; clover, of one or more years's growth is the best. But all of them should be *plastered* in the spring, when well up; and the wheat *salted* in the fall or winter.

KENT COUNTY SOCIETY.—We have received notice from the Secretary, S. Vannort, that the Kent County Agricultural Society will hold it next annual fair and show, Sept. 25, 26, and 27th. We are not informed at what place.

WILLOWS.—One of our subscribers, "G." informs us that there are willow nurseries on the Patapsco bottoms, with remarks on its utility in his vineyard, together with comments on Florida which we will publish next month.

GEORGIA ENTERPRISE.—The second number of a monthly journal, bearing the above name, has reached us, published at Atlanta, Georgia, devoted to agriculture generally, and to settling South-Western Georgia, in particular; and contains considerable information, in that direction; it is handsomely printed.

LAWNS.—A nice, well sheared lawn is a beauty and a comfort; now is the time to dress and level them; and soon they should be mown; get one of the Philadelphia Lawn Mowers; they are highly approved; all sizes, from 10 to 36 inches; prices, \$15 to \$160; to be used by hand or horse power.

What did I die of? Iodide of potassium, to be sure!

BOSWELL'S HEATING AND DRYING APPARATUS.—We have received a pamphlet setting forth the claims of a new heating and drying apparatus which promises large advantages, by *deflected* heat, as against radiation.

HEATHSVILLE, VA.—We have a practical communication, from one of our substantial subscribers, at this place, Mr. C. A. Eichelberger, on the application of manures, and *top-dressing* wheat and clover, which will appear in our next number.

A. M. FULFORD.—Last month, Mr. Fulford, of Harford county, made us a pleasant visit, paying his subscription to the *FARMER*, and gave us a description and fine pictures of his full blood *Berkshire Swine*, the prize pigs at the Centennial.

THE MALTBY HOUSE.—This old stand-by has just been freshly painted, frescoed and received a new elevator, and now looks as bright and pleasant as spring flowers and new pine apples for the opening season.

GOOD NURSERY STOCK.—Thos. Jackson, of Portland, Me. advertises, in our pages, a large and complete assortment of Fruit and Ornamental Nursery Stock, roses and vines, together with nursery and garden tools and implements. He is a reliable dealer.

THOROUGHBRED STOCK.—On account of having now on hand more stock than he desires to keep, Mr. John Henderson, of Baltimore, advertises, for sale, some of his full-blooded Jersey cows and heifers, which are known to be of the best stock in the country. Also, a superior, pure *Berkshire Boar*.

This is a fine chance for those who desire thoroughbred animals, and to improve stock.

VALUABLE BOAR.—We see by the Bel Air papers, of last month, that Mr. A. M. Fulford, of that county recently purchased from T. S. Cooper, of Coopersburg, Pa., a fine imported *Berkshire boar*, two years old, which took first prizes at several agricultural exhibitions in England.

MARYLAND FARMER.—The March number of the *Maryland Farmer* is a compendium of valuable and instructive reading for all who labor upon the farm, in the garden, or about the dairy, the poultry house and the apiary. How Mr. Ezra Whitman, the enterprising proprietor, can publish such a magazine for the low figure of \$1.50 per annum puzzles our ken.—*Baltimorean*.

THE MARYLAND FARMER.—The March number of this reliable and excellent magazine is to hand. A simple perusal of its columns will be convincing evidence of its worth and its rank among first-class agricultural journals.—*Rural Messenger*.

DON'T LOSE A MINUTE.—Keep busy. The man who has nothing to do is the most miserable of beings. If you have no regular work, do chores, as farmers do when it rains too hard to work in the field. In occupation we forget our troubles, and get a respite from sorrow. The man whose mind and hands are busy finds no time to weep and wail. If work is slack, spend the time in reading. No man ever knew too much. The hardest students in the world are the old men who know the most. If you lack books, there are free or very cheap libraries, at least in cities, at your command. The man who does not acquire some item of useful information between daybreak and bedtime must mournfully say, with the Roman Emperor, "I have lost a day."

RAIN IN CALIFORNIA.—The rain which began yesterday came before it was needed for the valleys in the immediate vicinity of San Francisco Bay and the Coast to the northward of it; but the southern part of the State continues dry, and the quantity of snow in the Siera is considerably below the average at this season. The prospect is good now for a fair grain crop; but in the Los Angeles region the natural pasture will be scanty, and farm animals will probably have a hard year of it.

The placer miners have ditches, and gold washing is pursued actively. The winter, though dry, has been unusually warm in the higher portions of the Siera.—*Alta California*.

WINTER WHEAT.—Last season the bare ground deeply frozen, was an injury to the wheat, while this season the deep snows give occasions for fears. The farmer rarely escapes one or the other extreme, except by constant watchfulness. Now he must look to the outlets for water from his field, so that the ground may not be flooded when a thaw comes. If it is intended to top dress the wheat or rye this should be postponed until it is probable that the manure would not be washed away with the melting snow. Such contingencies as this prove how much better it is to have the wheat crop manured before winter sets in, or before it is sown.—*Salisbury Advertiser*.

WHEAT CROP IN VIRGINIA.—Within a short time past the wheat crop has put in a better appearance. The winter was very severe on it, and for a while it looked as if the sprouts of the cereal would be none there indeed, but now the prospect has (1st of March) brightened, and the indications are every day growing brighter. We saw on our trip through the country this week some very fair fields of wheat, and it is to be hoped that the prospect will be good everywhere.—*Danville Express*.

CHOICE GARDEN SEEDS.—*Mr. S. N. Hyde*, of Harford county, who raises such splendid vegetables, and has earned a worthy reputation in that line, has kindly sent us several packages of the seeds of choice sorts, for which he has our thanks.

HONORS WELL DESERVED.—From the useful and beautiful exhibitions made at the Centennial, and examined by foreign scientists, we see that Prof. Thomas Taylor, Microscopist of the Department of Agriculture, and Col. Woodward, of the United States Army Medical Museum, in Washington have been elected honorary members of the Microscopical Society of Liverpool, England.

MARYLAND FARMER.—The March number of the Maryland Farmer has been issued. It is freighted with its usual cargo of useful suggestions, seasonable hints and interesting miscellany, all so valuable to the practical farmer. We advise every farmer to take this journal and thereby keep posted in all important matters concerning his avocation.—*Montgomery Advocate*.

TOBACCO—A HANDSOME RETURN.—*Mr. John Brown*, a farmer residing some thirteen miles below here on the French Broad, last year grew tobacco on three acres of land which yielded some 1,500 pounds, and having recently shipped the same to Danville, Va., has received returns therefor. He realized an average of \$32 per hundred, or the snug little sum of \$400. Now who will say this does not pay?—*Asheville Citizen*.

MARYLAND FARMER.—The March number of the Maryland Farmer is on our table, and, like all its predecessors, it is crammed full of useful and valuable information for the farmer and gardener. No one who lives by cultivating the soil in this latitude should be without the Maryland Farmer; one number is nearly always worth a whole year's subscription. We advise our farmers to take the Maryland Farmer and compare notes with their neighbors and learn wisdom from the experience of others.—*Salisbury Advertiser*.

THE AMERICAN.—Such is the name of a large, elegant new weekly journal, handsomely illustrated and printed on beautiful tinted paper, at \$4.00 per annum. But no names are given as publishers, and we cannot say what reliability there is in its continued publication.

BALTIMOREAN.—This popular Baltimore weekly, comes to us handsomely illustrated, every issue, with fine engravings, generally, likenesses of distinguished persons. Published by Crutchfield & Hass.

LADIES DEPARTMENT.

A Chat with the Ladies for April.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"Anemones and Violets,
Children of the Spring!
Thank you for the pretty flowers—
Nature's offering!

Violets—Anemones—
Bursting into birth;
Nature's painted playthings—
The pretty things of earth!

Blooming in the woodlands,
Underneath the trees;
Little meek-eyed violets,
Pale Anemones!

Clustering by the brook-side,
Clustering in the glen,
Nature hides her dearest flowers,
Far away from men;

Robes herself in velvet,
Jewelled like an earl's!
Violets—Anemones—
Amethysts and Pearls!

Violets—Anemones—
Children of the Spring!
Thank you for the pretty flowers—
Nature's offering!—NILLA.

The month of smiles and tears has returned, and we should rejoice, as it is the fore-runner of happy hours out of doors, and the delightful pleasures of seeing daily how nature develops her new charms and enchanting beauty.

The sweet poetess, above quoted, has only hinted at the earlier beauties that choose to hazard Winter's frowns and cold reception, by coming forth as heroines, breasting storms and frost, to be the first welcomers of Spring—genial sister of warm, gushing Summer. There are many other early and lovely flowers beside Violets and Anemones that give "glad tidings of great joy" to those who have been winter imprisoned, look longingly for sweet balmy spring and hot, flowery, fruity summer.

Do not think me too prosaic and practical, if I suggest to such of you as are disposed to be industrious and independent, to pursue one or more of the small industries which require light work, and not a great deal of time, yet yield a nice little sum for dress or other uses in which young and old ladies' know how to employ money, for their delectation. They who would not be dependent upon others for *pin money*, or be perhaps accountable to father, husband or brother, for the spending of it, or for what it is wanted, when they beg it, can follow my advice. Have your own *Bees*, and you can realize considerable from them. *Pigeons*, especially *fancy ones*, would give you pleasure and profit.—

Neither of these would cost much to keep, only a few moments each day devoted to their care.

In a family where there are several girls, one might take charge of the *Dairy*, for a certain pay or for a share; the same terms might be made as to the *Poultry*, or have a distinct poultry yard to one's self. To such as are fond of horticulture and flowers, they could propagate *rare plants* from seeds or cuttings and by budding, grafting, &c., a little fortune might be made. Orange, Lemon, Japonicas, Evergreens of rare sorts, Oleanders, Cape Jassamins, &c., can be easily grown, and they sell from 50 cents to 5 dollars apiece, in town or country. There is always a demand for flowers in winter, and arrangements could be made with florists and flower venders in the cities to sell them on commission, or who would give fair prices, and they could be sent at regular intervals to the places of sale. The sale of flowers is not derogatory to any lady these times. I know a widow, of high family connexions, who was left poor; she started in a small way and increased her store of plants and extended her room window gradually until she had one small green house; from that, she extended her pleasant occupation to a considerable floral establishment and employed good practical florists, and is to day very independant, after educating a number of children. She happened to settle near a flourishing village in the West, and her business grew with the growth of the town, altho' she had many rivals, all doing well; such is the love and the demand for flowers at this day. They have become indispensable for all ceremonies and gatherings of people, whether on grave or gay occasions, and hence the supply is not yet equal to the demand.

Now is the time you should be busy in the *Garden*. See that you have all your walks properly arranged and made firm. The beds put in nice order. The flower seeds, bulbs and plants, and shrubs, ordered from best nursery men, and everything ready on the first good day to be set out or the seeds sowed. Be sure to be guided as to the time of sowing or planting by the direction of the books or catalogues. Do not sow or plant at your convenience, but follow strictly the directions of the nurserymen or of the books on gardening, as much so, as you would the prescriptions of a physician. A mistake in either case might prove fatal. Do not rely upon either yourself, or on what Mr. A. or Mrs. B. says, but read the books, and understand for yourself the physiology of plants, their nature and habits and wants and characteristics and treat them accordingly, as you understand it yourself. You will therefore, learn much and what you do learn, experience will improve upon and you will no longer have failures in the cultivation

of your flowers, from following the idle talk of all your neighbors, each one suggesting a different treatment and perhaps neither one knowing what, in truth, they are talking about; I remember when a boy, every old lady said, if you break a branch of sage, you will kill the bush, and sage was as scarce as sausage is in summer, in the country.— Now sage is sown in Spring, planted in July and cut to the ground in September when in flower, and if desired to be kept over it will in October be six inches high and give a fine crop the following July. Science and experience have advanced in regard to vegetable and floral productions to an astonishing degree. Let us try and keep pace with it. Let us study *botany* and the practical Catalogues of the venerable Vick, and those of Messrs, Henderson, Bliss, Briggs, Ferry and others, and visit our nearer florists of Baltimore and Washington, and see for ourselves how those plants look that you have never before seen, but which you desire to grow, because you have been pleased with their descriptions or with their pictures—often deceptions—I am sorry to say.

As now is the time to commence your garden or flower beds, let me ask you to reserve room for some old-time flowers, for my sake, which are lovely and indispensable, I think, in any gardens, especially, some which have been much improved by culture, importation or hybridization. Among the Climbers, I would call your attention to the Morning Glories and their sister plants, more delicate and tender, yet more admired by many; I mean, the Ipomoeas such as the red and the white Cypress vine, &c. The *Thunbergia* is also a very pretty little climber, flowering well and beautifully. The various ornamental gourds ought to be planted; plant the Dolichos or flowering Hyacinth bean—it is a great grower, good to eat and affords beautiful flowers, cultivate it as you would Lima beans—it is of the same family.

Be sure to plant or, sow seed of Everlasting flowers, to dry and save for winter bouquets. Of ornamental grasses, grow several sorts, they give great satisfaction—the best are *Briza Maxima*, *Erianthus Ravenna*, superb, and the *Stipa pennata* or Feather grass, extremely graceful and beautiful. See that your borders be well supplied with such popular annuals as varieties of *Phlox Drummondie*, *Pansies*, double *Portulaca*, *Striped Petunias* and *Camellia Balsams*, &c.

In my "chat" next month I will speak of the bulbs and perennials that ought to be in every flower collection, and which can be planted out in May.

Of course you have a good stock of Shrubbery;

if not, set out this month a full supply, trim close and take pains in planting in well prepared rich, light soil. Let there be among them *Lilacs*, *snow-balls*, *barberry*, *Syringa*, *swamp magnolia*, double flowering *althea*, *woodbines* and *honeysuckles*, and others, remarkable for beauty and hardiness; plant such, if for no other reason, than as being reminders of the good old days that have gone, and of a noble people who in their simplicity once cherished these flowering plants as floral wonders, and were contented and happy.

NOTES AND SKETCHES.

BY FLORA.

Theory and Practice.—We wander over the smooth and flowery paths of theory; thence, through the stony and thorny fields of practice, gathering facts and pleasures from both, and often hateful mishaps.

While visiting the Corcoran Art Gallery, to-day, I saw a wonderful picture, "the herd at the ford," by James M. Hart; the scene is such an one as is met with by all ramblers along a wooded stream, in farming districts; and it steals over us with the charms of a personal reminiscence; it is the close of the day, the herd is leaving the dusty road to cross the shaded stream; the principal animals and nearest trees, in the picture, are all painted from nature; and as you wait till they are done drinking you can almost hear them lowing as they wind slowly over the hill to the home yards. The home-like landscapes with the domestic animals are the specialties of this artist, and he excels in them.

Birds—what they accomplish: the swallows, swifts, and night hawks are the guardians of the atmosphere, and check the increase of insects that infest it and soon would fill it, but for these birds which feed upon them. Woodpeckers, Crows, Chickadees, and some others are protectors of the orchard and shrubbery, by destroying the many insects. Black birds, Crows, Robins, and Thrushes and others, dig and devour grubs, bugs and worms in the soil; while flycatchers, warblers, yellow birds and others are guardians of foliage and flowers.—In fact, each tribe of birds has its natural and allotted office to perform in the protection and preservation of the farmer's products; and it is an indisputable fact, that were the birds all swept from the earth, man could not live on it.

Insects would swarm every where and become so numerous that vegetation would be destroyed and humanity be unable to withstand their attacks; and the vast destruction in the west by grasshoppers is undoubtedly due to the general destruction

of the birds, as the grouse, prairie hen, &c.

The inestimable service of birds, to farmer, gardener and florist, is being taught to them by severe experience; then spare the birds and save your fruits; the grain and fruits which they occasionally take, and only when deprived of their other sustenance, are more than paid for by their destruction of the more hurtful insects; even the long persecuted crow has been proved, by many examinations, to be of far more benefit than injury by his vast and industrious destruction of grubs and vermin; and is really the farmer's friend.

Prof. Owen mentions the fact that, while in Egypt, the flies were a great torment, but if he left his windows open, a little grey bird, "Fly-catcher," would come in and relieve him of the annoyance; so will the little wren. So much for the birds—let them live, by all means.

Sleeplessness.—Those who are thus troubled, might find benefit by noticing the following: A German physiologist states, that the heating of the earth by the sun rays causes magnetic currents to move from the equator toward the poles; therefore, to sleep well we should lie in the direction of these magnetic currents, with the head to the north, as the effects are unfavorable when lying across the currents, and the head to the west is the very worst position to lie in. Those having charge of hospitals and of the sick may, possibly, heed this theory with benefit to the sufferers, and with best results.

Washington, March, 1877.

St. Nicholas for March.

Luck doth wait, standing idly at the gate—
Wishing, wishing all the day;
And at night, without a fire, without a light,
And before an empty tray,
Doth sadly say;
"To-morrow something may turn up;
To-night on wishes I must sup."
Labor goes, plowing deep the fertile rows—
Singing, singing all the day;
And at night, before the fire, beside the light,
And with a well-filled tray,
Doth gladly say;
To-morrow I'll turn something up;
To-night on wages earned I sup."

FARMER LIBRARIES.—In addition to Agricultural instruction in our schools every neighborhood of farmers would derive pleasure and profit from having good library of well selected, reliable works on Agriculture; bound volumes of standard agricultural magazines would be useful, in all such libraries.

"I don't like winter," said one pickpocket to another. "Everybody has his hands in his pockets."

For the Maryland Farmer.

Seeing and Hearing.

I see signs of spring—nothing uncommon at this season—but "the way winter lingered in the lap of spring," made the mild eyed queen chilly to her very heart. Of course, everything was frozen, and all this, after the coaxing delights of apparently being thawed out. The crocuses, in their light, delicate robes, are pitifully pinched, and they have tears in their eyes yet. The hyacinths were curled up so snugly they bear their chilling pressure without perceptible effect. The trailing arbutus is in bloom, and its delicate beauty and fragrance awakens sweet memories; I fancy it winks and nods at my recognition; certainly, its heart is true and tender, and the secrets I whisper never are repeated.

St. Patrick introduced himself in the most boisterous manner as usual. There were no reflections to be cast on the Ground Hogs courtesy, for his contract expired just in time for St. Patrick to demonstrate a change in the programme. The parade was grand, and the show beautiful, and the poets' had another license to fill up the waste basket by their effusions.

Spring work is in order, Easter is near, and prayer books will give place to marvelous spring costumes. Signs of reform are visible.

Planting, plowing and such industries are in order, but while raising the substantials of life one must, of necessity, contemplate the subjects to be fed, especially as the question is pressed home to a depleted pocket book.

But the world moves, and business has taken a start too. Mrs. Hayes has made a reform in dress, and with commendable bravery has worn *one costume three times* at least.

One of the last wonders, was the Potomac Fruit Grower's, City Pic-nic. The reporters, that were stuffed to awaken them *writely*, didn't respond for more than three of the four participants. Well, if one's reputation, or that of a pic-nic's, is lost or won by the caprices of quill-drivers it certainly wouldn't be worth much. The music added a charm to the pic-nic that nothing else could. Mr. Smith kindly furnished the piano, and Mrs. Daniels was the leading spirit of song. Mrs. King and daughter, the Misses Chase and Hopkins, also, contributed to the musical feast.

The silver fruit basket presented by this society to Mr. Claggett was really beautiful. This gentleman responded to the surprise, very pleasantly.

Washington, March, 1877.

B. B.

IRRIGATION.—An interesting work, on irrigating farms, orchards and gardens, by Henry Stewart, civil engineer, has been sent us from the Orange Judd publishing house, New York.

The volume is copiously illustrated with cuts, to show the various plans for irrigating and draining lands, and the means for raising and flowing water. It states truly the importance of having plenty of water to obtain heavy yield of crops. We shall give our readers the benefit of extracts from this volume, as we shall find room.

VITICULTURE AND VINICULTURE.—Such is the title of a learned and well printed pamphlet, which we received, printed at Adelaide, South Australia, written by Ed. Bourbard, member of the Vigneron's Club, of Adelaide. It contains a large amount of information about grapes and wine, their growth and production.

SIGNAL CORPS REPORT.—We are indebted to the signal service for their February report, which shows the rain-fall for the month to be 1.35 inches, against 3.25 inches for previous years. The temperature was 40.2 degrees, against 35.4 degrees for previous years.

These figures show that we have had a dry, warm February as compared with several previous years.

Within the last eighteen months fifteen or twenty gentlemen from the state of Ohio, have come into our county and purchased farms. They have brought with them industry and farming skill, and already the effect of their labors in our midst is apparent.—*Montgomery Advocate*.

DORCHESTER COUNTY.—The Dorchester County Agricultural Association will hold its regular annual exhibition near Cambridge on the 17, 18th and 19th of October.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY.—The new assessment of Alleghany county has been revised except in one district. The aggregate will be about \$19,500,000, being an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 over the old assessment.

FREDERICK COUNTY.—J. Alfred Ritter's farm of 222 acres in Frederick county, has been sold to S. H. Brown for \$18,000

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY.—The new assessment in this county shows a total valuation of \$9,072,366. This is an increase over the assessment of 1867, which amounted to \$8,265,983, of \$806,383.—*Marlboro Gazette*.

SEED RUNNING OUT.—Last month we gave our views on this subject; and are now glad to give our readers an intelligent article on that subject from the able pen of Mr. Blunt, an experienced writer and farmer.

STRAWBERRIES.—Mr. H. C. Southall, of Prince George county, Virginia, was to see us on last Wednesday, and informed us he had strawberries of the Agriculturist variety in his garden, as large as a hickory nut. These are the earliest we have heard of. Hope he will send us some of them when they get ripe.—*Rural Messenger*.

PERSONAL.—Last month we received a pleasant visit from I. S. Wilson, Esq., Editor of the *Marlboro Gazette*, and much enjoyed a social chat with him.

THE MARYLAND FARMER FOR MARCH is received. It has well written articles on the tilling of the soil, raising of live stock, the apiary, &c.—

No farmer can well afford to be without a copy. Published by Ezra Whitman, Esq., Baltimore, at \$1.50 per annum in advance.—*Frederick Examiner*.

May not a bird that sleeps on the wing be said to occupy a feather-bed.

Catalogues, Price Lists, etc.

George Foust.—Greenhouse and Bedding Plants.
C. T. Beecher's patent whiffletree gear,
Boswell's deflected heating apparatus and fruit dryer.

Enterprise Manufacturing Co., Ohio.—Garden and Household Implements and Mechanics' Tools.

Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y.—Descriptive catalogue of rare plants and shrubs.

G. B. Weeks, price list of Dairy supplies and apparatus.

L. A. Hardee, Florida.—Nursery Stock.

John Campbell, N. Y.—Description of churns.

E. L. & J. N. Sturtevant, Mass, Ayrshire Register of Cattle.

Wm. H. Mann, Pa. Fence Manufacturing Company.

Porter & Coates, Agricultural Book Publishers, Philadelphia.

GEO. H. Chapin, Home and Farm Advertiser, Boston Mass: a handsome, large pamphlet of adv's. and pictures, of homes and farms for sale.

Music,—"Hold the Fort," F. W. Helmick, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Polytechnic Review, Philadelphia, Pa., Wm. H. Wahl,

THE MARYLAND FARMER.

BALTIMORE MARKETS--April 1.

This Market Report is carefully made up every month, and farmers may rely upon its correctness.

Cotton.—The demand is good; prices, 12@13 cts.

Bark.—The market steady and unchanged. We quote No. 1 at \$25; No. 2 at \$12a20 per ton, free on board.

Beans and Peas.—The market is dull and easier.

We quote—

New York medium choice..... \$2 00a2 25
New York Prime..... \$2 00a2 50
Country Beans..... 1 20a1 50

Beeswax.—Receipts light, and prices steady; in fair demand. We quote at 20a30 cents.

Broom Corn.—The market; prices lower. We quote good to choice medium green. 5½a8 cents; common red tipped, 7 cents per pound.

Butter.—

	Ex.	Fine	Choice.	Prime
New York State	18a20	28a29	30a35	
North Western Roll	18a19	25a27	20a23	
Western Reserve do	25a28	21a22	18a20	
Western packed	23a25	20a22	18a20	
Near by Receipts	20a30	19a23	17a22	

Cheese.—

New York State Choice	14	a16	
do. do. Good to prime	12	a13	
Western Fine	14	a15	
do. Good to prime	11	a13	

Dried Fruits—DOMESTIC.—

Apples, sliced	8	a10	
do. quarters	7	a9	
Peaches, peeled	12	a16	
do. unpeeled quarters	8	a10	
do. halves	8	a10	

Feathers.—We quote 60 cents for Western Live Geese, 50a55 cents for good do., and 25a45 cents for common to fair per lb.

GRAINS.

CORN.

Southern White	52a56	
do. Yellow	53a57	

WHEAT.

Western No. 1 Amber	\$1 60	a1 70
do. No. 2 do.	1 50	a 55
do. Mixed do.	a	
do. No. 1 Red	1 55	a1 60
do. No. 2 do.	95	a1 15
Pennsylvania Red	1 60	a1 68
Maryland Red	1 60	a1 68
do. Amber	1 60	a1 70
do. White	1 60	a1 70

OATS.

Southern good to prime	40a45	
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RYE.

Good to prime	72a73	
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Hay and Straw.

Hay—Cecil Co. Timothy	\$18 00a19 00	
do. Penn. and New York	16 00a18 00	
do. Mixed	13 00a14 00	
do. Clover	13 00a14 00	
Straw—Wheat	10 00a11 00	
do. Oat	12 00a13 00	
do. Rye	16 00a17 00	

Hides.—Market fair; quotations as follows: Association Steers, selected middle and overweights, 9a11 cents; Cows and light Steers, 10 cents.

Mill Feed.

Western Bran, per ton	\$14 00a16 00	
do. Shipstuff, per ton	13 00a14 00	

Onions.—Eastern \$1.75a2.25 for round lots; Western \$1.25a2.00 per bbl.

Potatoes.

Early Rose, per bushel	a	
do. per bbl	\$3 50a4 00	
Peerless, per bus	1 30a1 50	
do. per bbl	3 50a4 00	
Peach Blow, per bus	1 25a1 50	
do. per bbl	3 00a3 50	
Sweet Potatoes per bbl	3 50a4 90	

Eggs.

Fresh Western	13a15	
Near by receipts	14a16	
Pickled	a	
Fresh Southern	11a12	

Poultry and Game.

Live Turkeys, undrawn	15 a20	
Chickens per dozen	2.00a4.00	
Ducks "	4 00a5.50	
Geese	8 a10	

(Drawn 1a3 cents higher, as to quality.)

LIVE STOCK.

BEEF CATTLE.

That rated first quality	4 a6 cents	
Medium or fair quality	3½a5 do.	
Most sales are from	3¾a5½ do.	

Hogs.—\$9 a10, latter for a few extra heavy Hogs.

Sheep.—We quote at 4¾a7½ cents per lb., gross.

Seeds.—Clover scarce and in demand.

Clover Alsike	3 lb 80c	
do Lucerne best	60c	
do Red, Choice	16a17	
do White	60c	

Flaxseed	3 bush. 1.30a1 40	
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Grass Red Top	3 bush. 1.00a1.50	
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do Orchard	2.50a3.25	
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do Italian Rye	3.50	
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do Hungarian	1.50a1.75	
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do Timothy 45 lb.	2.25a2.50	
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do Kentucky Blue	2.25a2.50	
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do Extra Clean	2.50a4.00	
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do Fine mixed for lawns	4.00a5.00	
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Tobacco LEAF.

Maryland- Frosted	\$3 00a 4 00	
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do. sound common	4 00a7 50	
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do. good do.	7 00a7 50	
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do. middling	9 00a12 00	
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do. good to fine red	15 00a20 00	
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do. fancy	12 00a17 00	
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do. upper country	7 50a25 00	
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do. ground leaves, new	2 00a 9 00	
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Virginia—common and good lugs	8 50a10 50	
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do. common to medium leaf	9 00a13 00	
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do. fair to good	13 00a16 00	
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do. selections	6 00a20 00	
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do. stems, common to fine	4 00a 7 00	
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Wool.—For Tub-washed, 35a40 cents; unwashed, 25a30 cents per lb.

Miscellaneous Produce.

Peas, black eye, per bus	1 10 a1 20	
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Apples, New York, per bbl	2 50 a3 00	
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do. country do.	2 00 a2 50	
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Sheep's Pelts, each	50 a1 00	
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Tallow, country, per lb	8½a 9	
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Soap, country, per lb	4 a 6	
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Sumac.—We quote American per ton, \$78.00a82.00; Sicily, 90a1.00.

Fertilizers.—Jobbing rates are here quoted. Contracts for large orders can be made at reduced figures. 2,000 lbs. to the ton.

Peruvian Guano	\$50 00a65 00	
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Turner's Excelsior	\$50 00	
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do Ammonia Sup. Phos.	45 00	
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Soluble Pacific Guano	45 00	
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Rasin's & Co.'s Sol. S. Is. Guano	50 00	
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Excellenza Soluble Phosphate	50 00	
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do Cotton Fertilizer	50 00	
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John Bullock & Sons' Pure Ground Bone	42 00	
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J. M. Rhodes & Co.'s Ammoniated Phosphate	45 00	
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Popplein's Silicated Phosphate of Lime	50 00	
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Lorentz & Ritter's Star Tobacco Fertilizer	55 00	
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do do do Ammoniated	50 00	
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do do do Dissolved Bone	50 00	
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R. J. Baker & Co.'s Ground Bone	40 00a42 00	
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Zell's Ammen. Bone Super Phos.		
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Whitman's Phosphate	45 00	
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Missouri Bone Meal	40 00	
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Horner's Md. Super Phosphate	50 00	
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do Bone Dust	45 00	
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Dissolved Bones	45 00	
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Moro Phillips' Super Phosphate of Lime	48 00	
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Plaster	per bbl. 1 75	
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Orchilla Guan A. per ton	30 00	
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South Sea Guano	50 00	
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Slingluff & Coa Dissolved Raw Bone	45 00	
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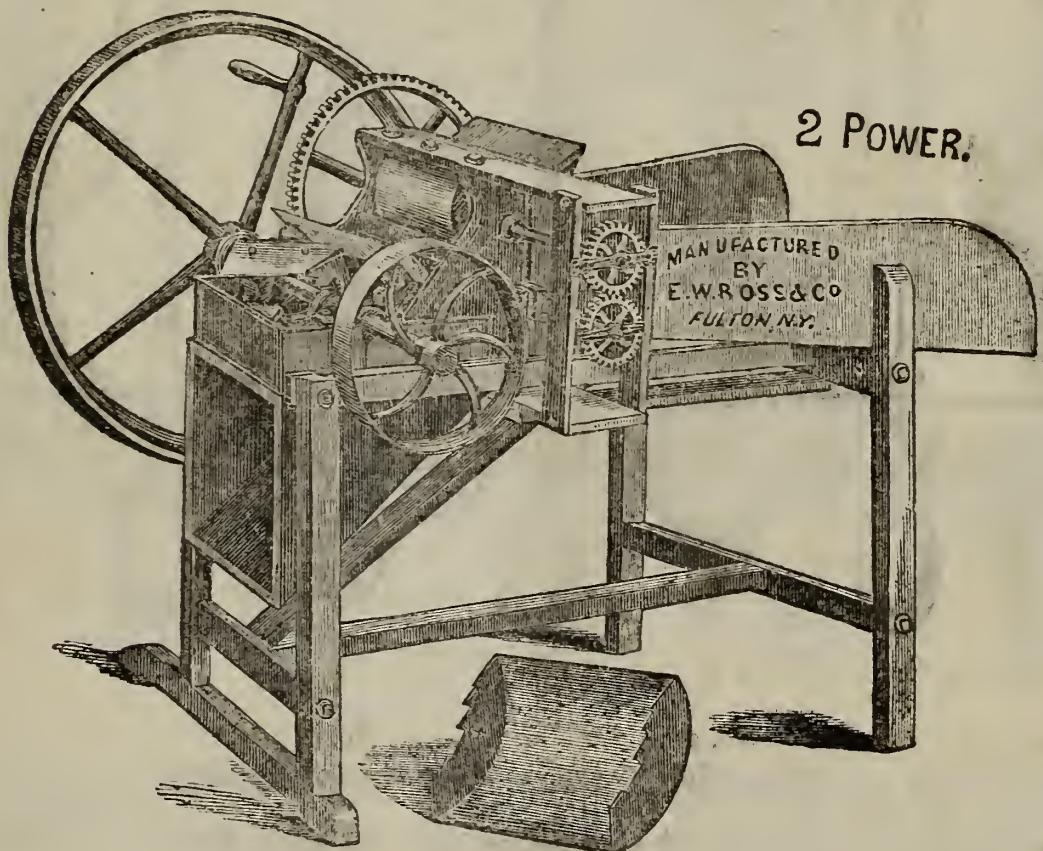
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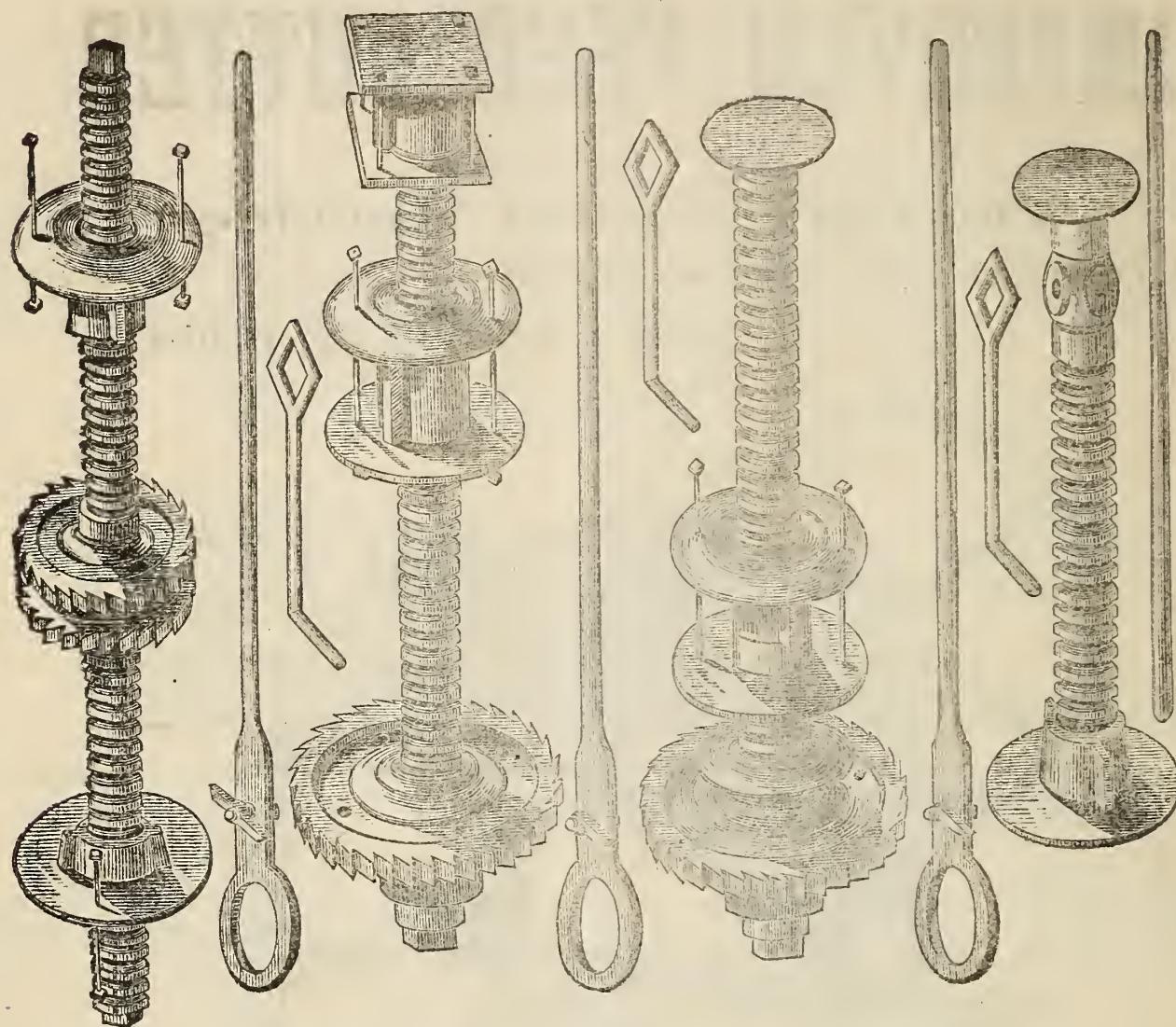
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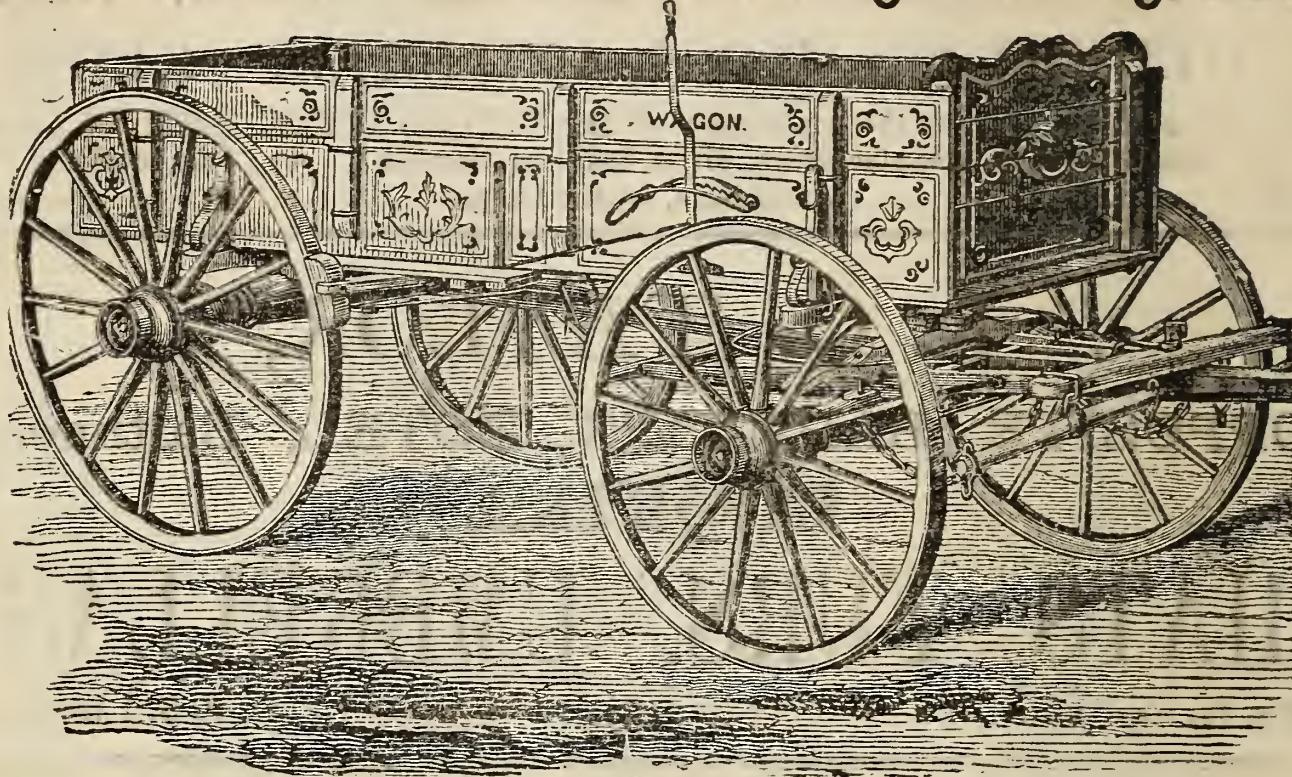
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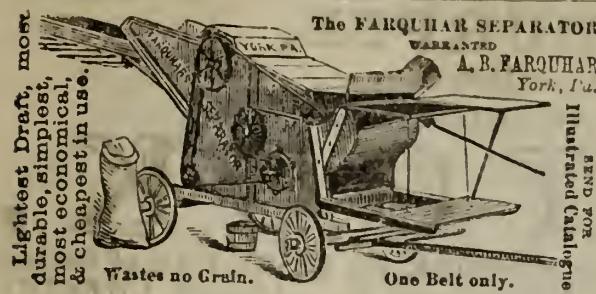
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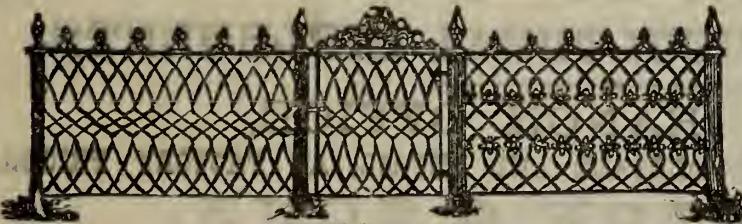
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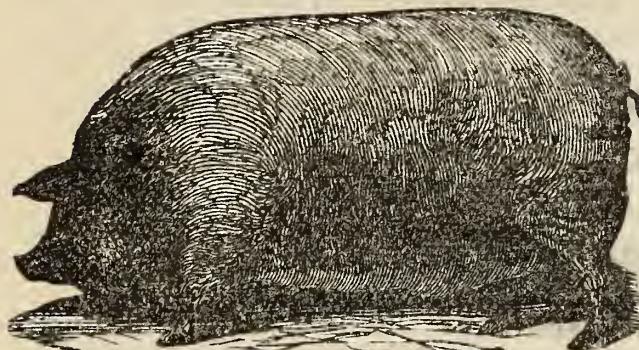
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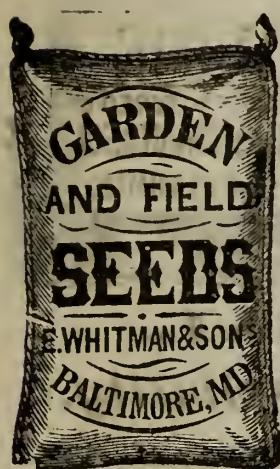
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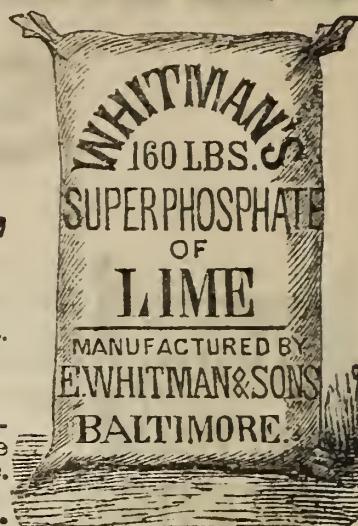
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Look at the Analysis, and compare it with other Phosphates in the Market.
SOLUBLE BONE PHOSPHATE—25 to 30 per cent.
AMMONIA, — 2 to 2 1-2 “
POTASH, — 2 1-2 “

Composed entirely of Pure Dissolved Bone Ash, Dried Blood and Animal Matter, and Potash Salts. No mineral phosphates used. Made of the highest grade materials known. There can be no better phosphate made.

Price \$45 Per Ton, in Sacks, of 160 pounds each.



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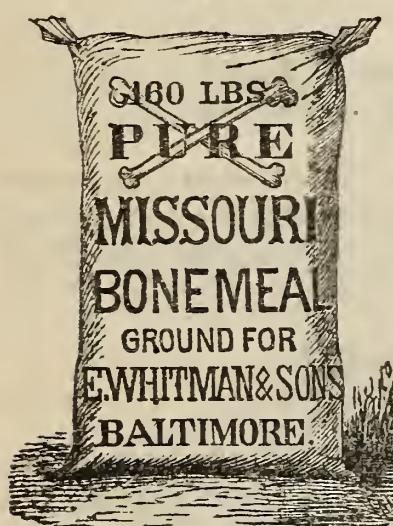
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Which is the highest analysis yielded by pure bone. The largest particles are smaller than timothy seed.

Price \$40 Per Ton, in Sacks of 160 lbs. each.

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As some parties are offering as Missouri Bone Meal other than the genuine article, we caution all persons that none is genuine unless the bags are branded as shown in the accompanying cut. Our Trade Mark is copyrighted, and we take the entire production of the Mill, and all infringements upon our copyright will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This article is perfectly pure, and has made a reputation for excellence never equaled by any Bone offered in this market. We do not claim that Bones ground in Missouri are any better than others, but we do claim that the Bone ground by our MILL is perfectly pure, and in unusually fine condition. "Missouri Bone Meal" is a name that we gave to designate this particular article; and to keep other dealers from palming off their goods upon those desiring the genuine Missouri Bone Meal, we have had our Trade Mark copyrighted.

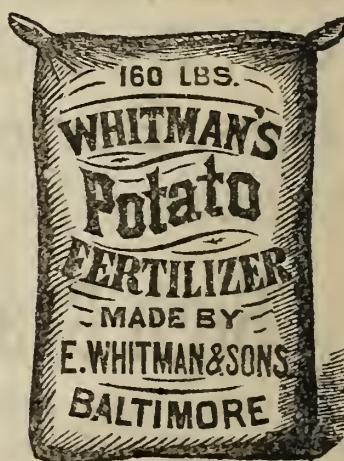


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PRICE \$45 PER 2,000 POUNDS,

In New Sacks of 160 lbs. each.



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Peruvian Guano, South Carolina Bone (fine ground or dissolved,) Plaster, Sulphuric Acid, Potash, Sulphate of Soda, Nitrate of Soda, and all kinds of Fertilizer materials always on hand and for sale at the lowest market prices.

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145 & 147 W. PRATT ST., Baltimore, Md.

THE MARYLAND FARMER.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., NOVEMBER 20th, 1876.

E. Whitman & Sons, Baltimore, Md.

Gents.—Your favor of the 18th, making inquiry of the results of my experience in use of your "Young America Corn & Cob Mill," has been received. I take pleasure in stating that the experiment has been entirely satisfactory, and I regard it as a valuable adjunct in providing for winter-feeding stock, and sold at a very reasonable price, for its merits.

Respectfully yours, JOHN S. BARBOUR.

RICHMOND, VA., NOVEMBER 1st, 1876.

E. Whitman & Sons.

Gentlemen:—Yours of 30th received. We have sold quite a number of your "Young America Corn & Cob Mills" during the past year, and they have all given entire satisfaction. We believe it is the best mill of the kind in the market.

Respectfully yours, H. M. SMITH & CO.

FREDERICK CITY, MD., NOVEMBER 20th, 1876.

E. Whitman & Sons.

Gentlemen:—In answer to your inquiry concerning the merits of the "Young America Corn & Cob mill," would say that in our experience we believe it is the best mill for farmers and stock feeders use, that is made. It is cheap, simple, durable, and does good and satisfactory work when the grain is in proper condition for grinding. It will crush the corn and cobs fine enough for feed in one operation, and also grind shell corn, rye, oats, barley, and screenings as good as any grist mill. It is the most economical machine a farmer can buy.

Yours, Respectfully, STEWART & PRICE.

HILLSBORO, LOUDOUN Co., VA., NOVEMBER 20th, 1876.

Messrs. E. Whitman & Sons.

Gentlemen:—I used one of the "Young America Corn & Cob Mills" last winter, and found it in every respect what it was recommended. Every farmer should have one, and I feel satisfied that the use of the mill one season would pay for it, not only in feeding stock, but in grinding corn for meal, which it will do admirably, also other small grains.

Very respectfully, T. E. HOUGH.

ELKIN, N. C. NOVEMBER 22nd, 1876.

E. Whitman & Sons.

Gentlemen:—The "Young America Corn & Cob Mill" bought of you a few months ago, for one of our firm, gives entire satisfaction. Does all you recommend, and more; find it also grinds rye well.

Please send us another for a customer, to Windsor, N. C., via York River Line, as soon as convenient. So soon as our great National affairs are favorably settled, and money matters become easier, we will want several more of these mills.

Yours truly, R. R. GWYN & CO.

CULPEPER Co., VA., NOVEMBER 19th, 1876.

Messrs. E. Whitman & Sons.

Gents.—Your postal received to-day. In regard to "Young America Corn & Cob Mill," allow me to say, it will make excellent meal, when the corn is dry. It has worked very satisfactory to me. As to crushing corn and grinding cob meal, that is, corn and cob together; it seems to me it accomplishes all that can be reasonably expected or desired, and has particularly excited the hostility of the millers around me, which may be considered a very fair proof of its merits. I have had 44 bushels cob meal ground in one short winter day by a Negro boy 10 or 12 years old, with one horse.

Yours, &c., WALTER C. PRESTON.

HIRNDON, GEORGIA, NOVEMBER 21st, 1876.

Messrs. E. Whitman & Sons.

Gents.—With the aid of one mule the "Young America Corn & Cob Mill" makes excellent hominy for the table, and turns out splendid feed for horses, hogs and cows. In a few hours I can grind enough to last my stock a week. I am well pleased with it and would cheerfully recommend their more general use.

Very respectfully, A. P. WIGGINS.

ILCHESTER, MD., NOVEMBER 4th, 1876.

Messrs. E. Whitman & Sons.

Gents.—The "Young America Corn & Cob Mill" will grind from six to ten bushels an hour according to the power you have and the fineness of the corn. It will save a great deal of corn in feeding horses: and as for cattle, it has no equal. Cattle improve much faster, and never get stalled if fed with a little care.

Respectfully, G. HOWARD WHITE.

HANOVER, January 6, 1876.

GENTS.—In reply to yours of the 5th instant, I would say that I have ground eighteen bushels of corn and cob with the Young America Mill in one hour, and can do it with ease, providing the corn is dry, and make it fine enough for any feeding purposes. The majority of our farmers grind shell-ed corn with the mill, and also grind rye for horse chop, and corn for meal, but what quantity per hour I cannot say. Yours, truly,

Wm. J. YOUNG.

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Can be safely used in place of Tin, Slate, &c. Can be placed over old shingles making a handsome roof, both Water and Fire-Proof. The roofing is made in sheets 32 inches in breadth, 15 feet in length, 40 feet to the sheet. WILL BE SENT TO ANY PART OF THE COUNTRY, DELIVERED TO BOATS OR CARS, at 5 Cents a foot, \$2 a Sheet, with Cement for Laps, &c.

Instructions, so any person can do the work as well as the most skilled workmen.

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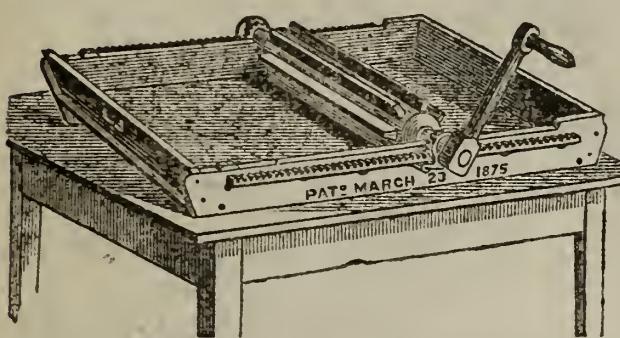
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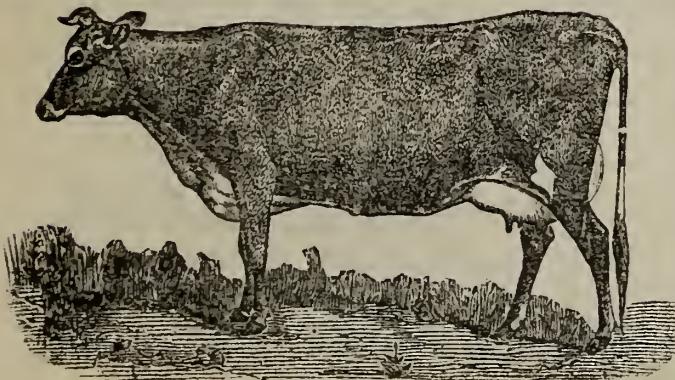
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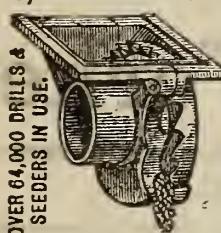
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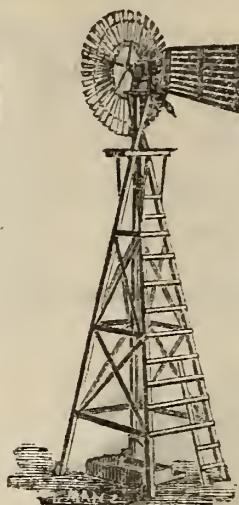
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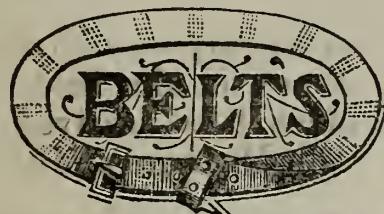
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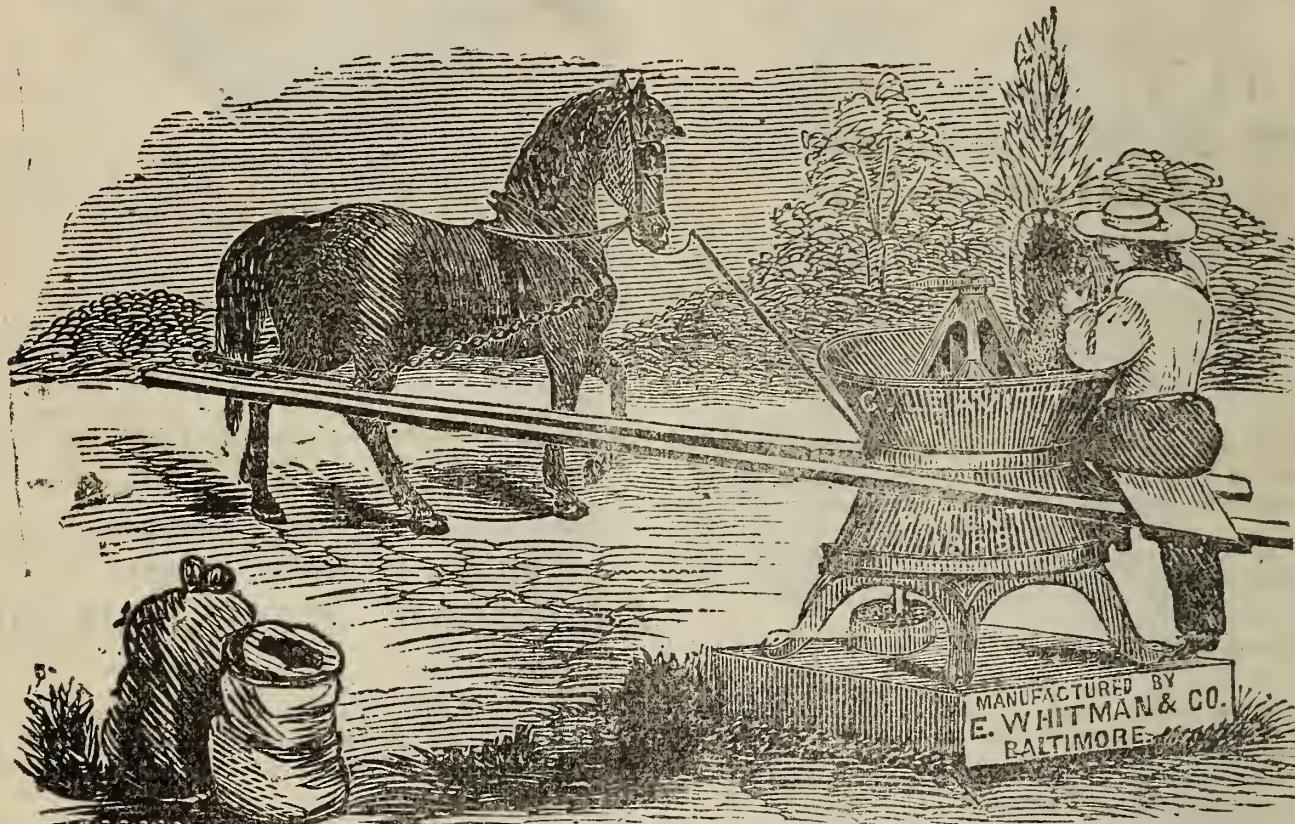
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